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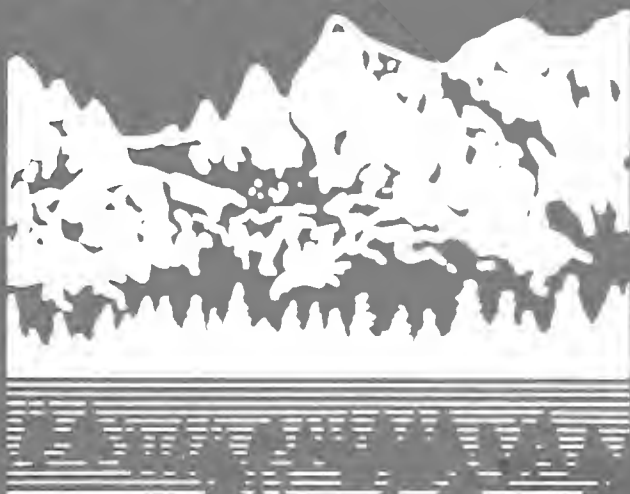
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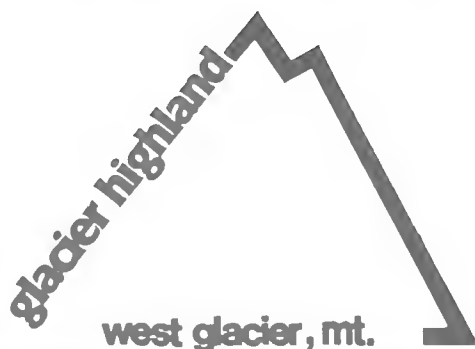
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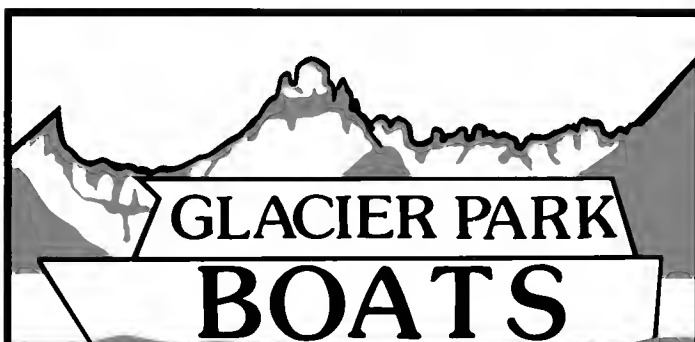
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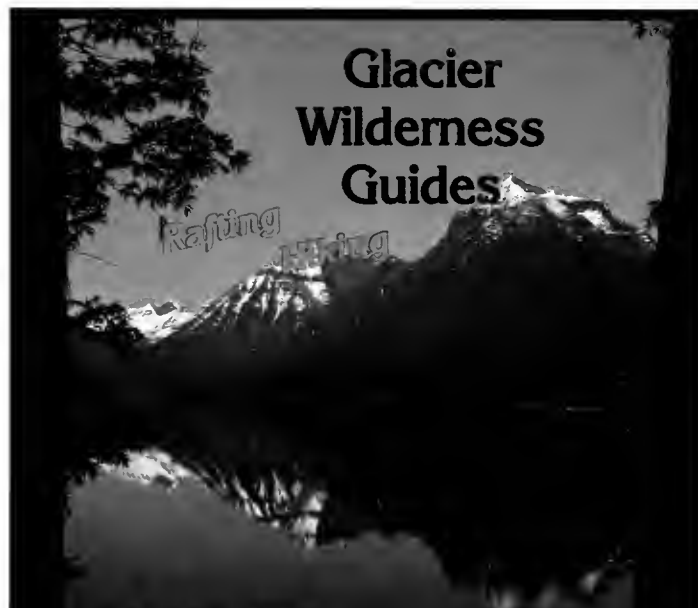
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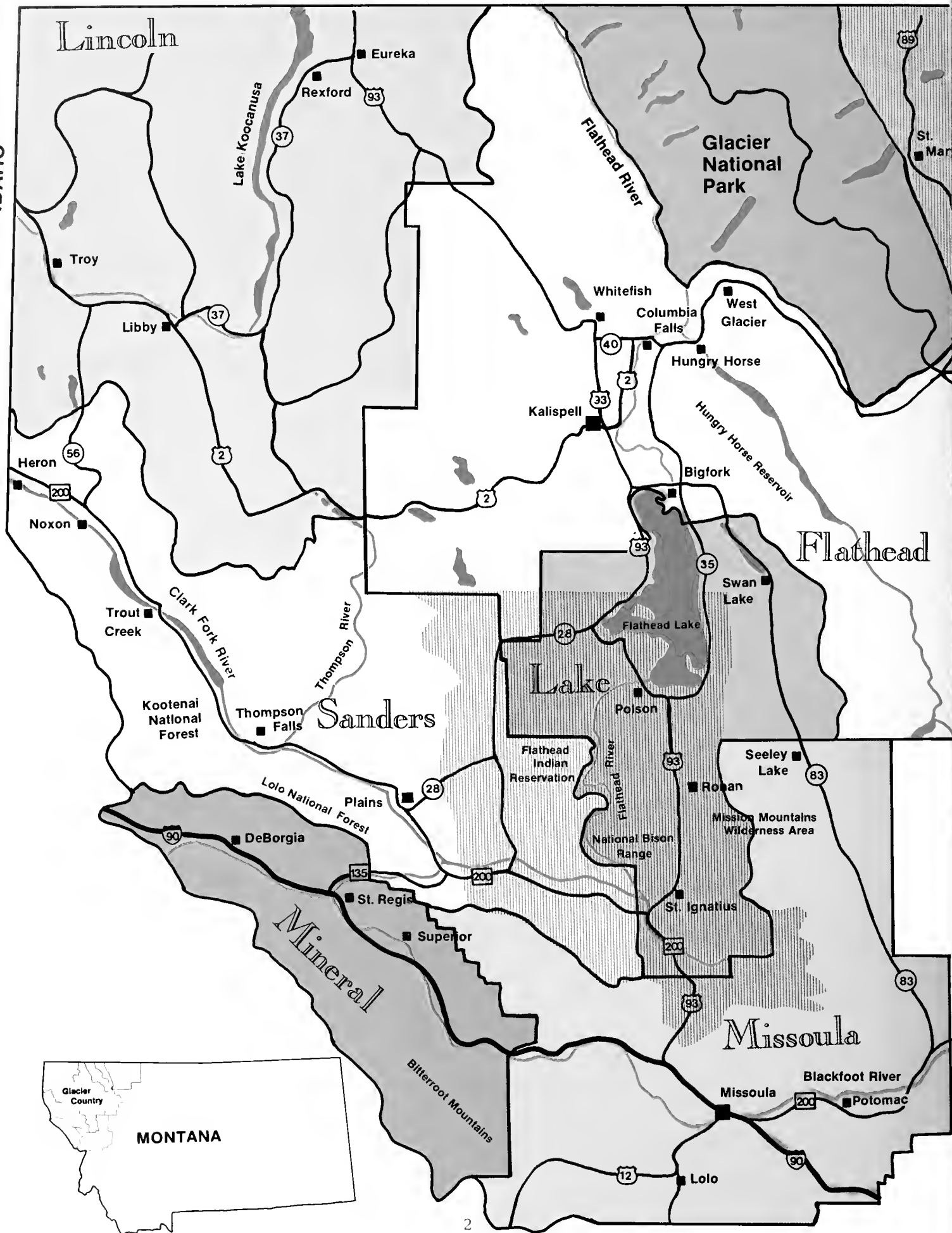
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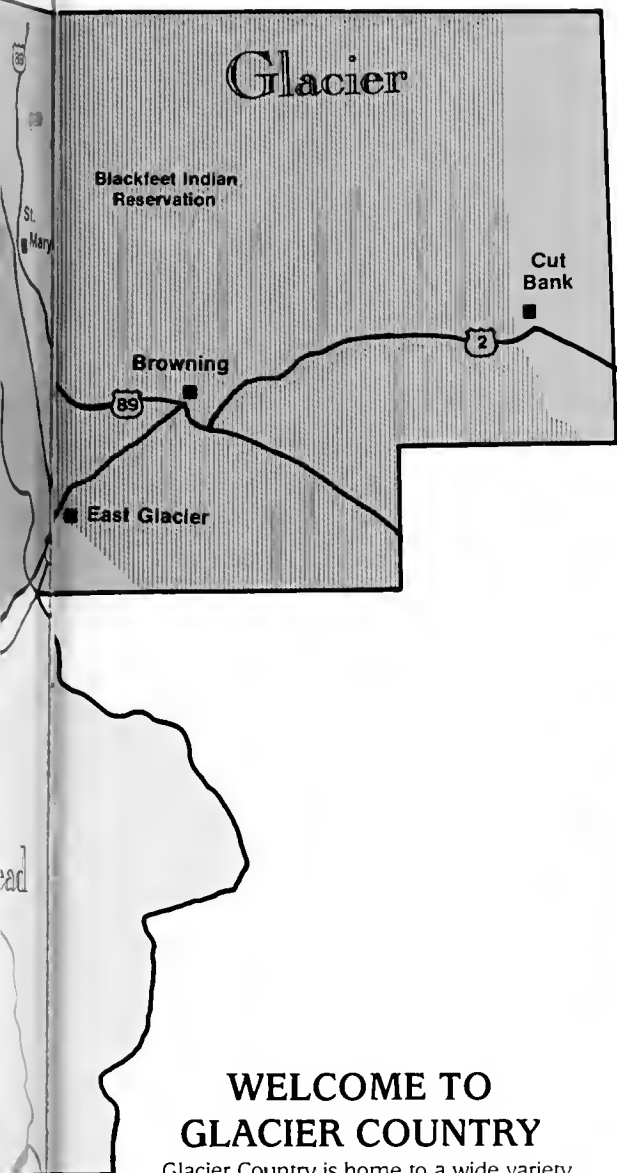
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So come, stay awhile, then feel free to let us know how we did, and any ideas you may have to improve our services and attractions.

**Glacier Country Regional
Tourism Commission
1701 Highway 93 South
Kalispell, Montana 59901**

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This publication is produced in cooperation with Travel Montana, Department of Commerce.



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Cradled between the Rocky Mountains on the east and west, bumping Canada to the north, and spilling into Flathead Lake on the south is the Flathead Valley. Virtually undiscovered, this lush region of northwestern Montana has it all, regardless of the season.

Points of Interest

Glacier National Park
Flathead Lake
Whitefish Lake
Bob Marshall Wilderness Area
Great Bear Wilderness Area
Wild and Scenic Forks of the Flathead River
Conrad Mansion in Kalispell
Hungry Horse Dam
Big Mountain Ski Resort
Hockaday Center for the Arts in Kalispell

Spring

Ski/Golf Championships in Whitefish
North American Ski-Yachting Championship
Kalispell Outdoor Sportsman Show
Bigfork Whitewater Festival

Summer

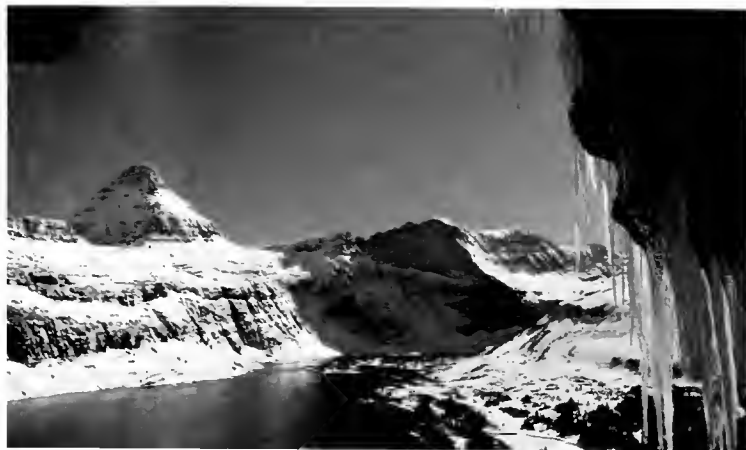
America's Youth Classic Run in Kalispell
Bigfork Fourth of July Celebration
Whitefish Lake Regatta
Bigfork Wooden Boat Show/Sailboat Regatta
Hockaday Arts in the Park in Kalispell
Northwest Montana Fair and Rodeo in Kalispell
Bigfork Festival of the Arts
Bigfork Ho-Hi Sailboat Regatta
Montana Festival of the Rockies

Fall

Whitefish Summer Games
Oktoberfest events are held throughout the Flathead Valley

Winter

Glacier Dog Sled Race in Columbia Falls
Kalispell Chili Cook-Off
Whitefish Winter Carnival
Big Mountain/Doug Betters Winter Classic
Bash for Cash Ski Races at Big Mountain



Lake McDonald photo (right)
courtesy of
Finley-Holiday Films

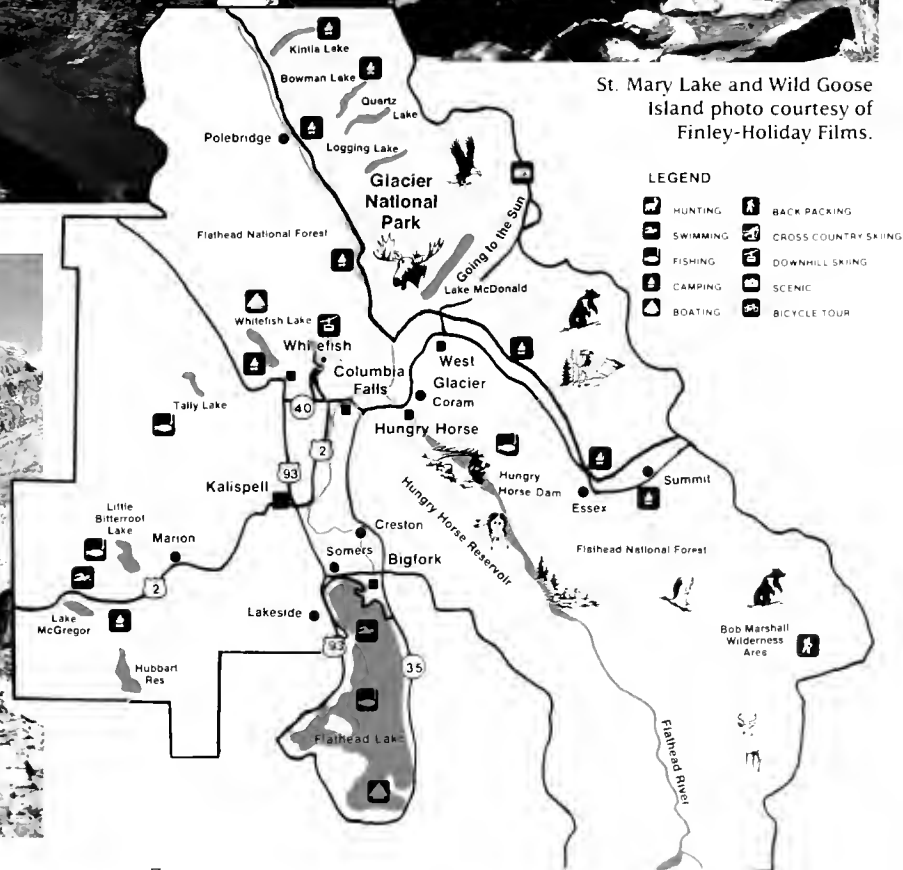




Sailboat on Whitefish Lake photo by Randy Gaynor.



St. Mary Lake and Wild Goose Island photo courtesy of Finley-Holiday Films.





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The valley was used in the 1800's by Indians who called it home, and others who passed through to hunt, fish, trap and travel through its mountains and prairies. The valley was a fringe area for the trappers and traders, as access was not easy, keeping settlement by white men to a minimum.

The Flathead Valley is no longer tucked away. Amtrak passes through on east/west routes daily and commercial airlines serve the valley through a new international airport. Commercial bus, rental car and charter services of all kinds are available. U.S. Highways 2 and 93, plus several Montana highways and county roads, criss-cross the valley providing easy access.

This scenic valley, with its many attractions, offers year-round enjoyment for the visitor, regardless of age, interest or time. Whether you are planning to spend a few hours or several weeks, the Flathead should be considered a vacation destination land. Once you have experienced the myriad of things to do and see, you will find yourself pulled back again and again by the friendly people and a feeling that there is so much yet to enjoy.

Kalispell

Kalispell, the county seat, has an historic courthouse bisecting Main Street. Sporting a new large shopping mall in the uptown area, it is the retail center for the valley.

Kalispell has many unique shops and stores, including a second, established mall at the edge of town.

The Conrad Mansion, home of the city founder, is furnished with its original furniture. Open to the public for tours from mid-May through mid-October, it offers a glimpse into the past. The Hockaday Center for the Arts, open daily except Monday, provides a variety of art displays throughout the year. Nearby, Lone Pine Visitor Center provides a breathtaking view of the valley and offers interesting courses and displays.

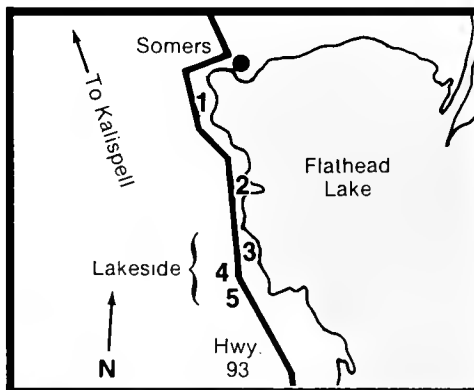
The Northwest Montana Fair and Rodeo is held each August. During the rest of the year, the fairgrounds are used for everything from horse shows and antique car rallies to science fairs and Scout-o-ramas. The 27-hole Buffalo Hill Championship Golf Course is open to the public. Rodeos, held at two nearby locations, provide hours of summer entertainment and art galleries and bronze foundries welcome visitors. Woodland Park and its bird-filled lagoon, open year-round, is a delight to visit for young and old.

Whitefish

Known as the holiday village, Whitefish carries a festive air all the time. You can enjoy the Whitefish Winter Carnival and the summer time hydroplane races on Whitefish Lake. Local cultural offerings by theatre groups are excellent and entertaining, or head out and play on

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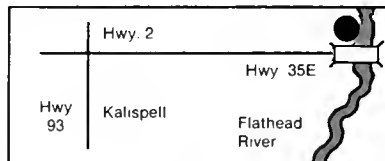




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the Whitefish Lake Golf Course, a 27-hole championship public golf course. Fun and good times are there for everyone to enjoy in Whitefish.

Shopping is at its best in Whitefish, whether downtown or in the mall at the southern edge of the community. The Big Mountain Ski Resort is only a few minutes away, boasting miles and miles of groomed trails and lots of deep powder. In the summer, the resort offers chair lift rides and hiking trails. Fine restaurants in Whitefish make it impossible to go away hungry.

Whitefish Lake is graced with numerous fine resort facilities in this community which ties itself to the water and snow. An Amtrak depot is located here, providing a great means of transportation throughout the year.



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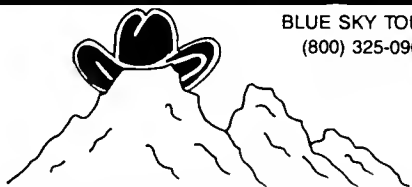
7 - 1st Ave. E. Reservations recommended
Kalispell, Montana 59901 (406) 752-5217

Columbia Falls

Gateway to the Glacier National Park and the wild, untamed North Fork, Columbia Falls is the industrial hub of the valley, enjoying a bustle of activity. The Meadowlake Golf Course welcomes the public to enjoy a challenging, scenic 18-hole course.

From Columbia Falls you can head through Badrock Canyon toward Glacier National Park, catching a glimpse of the Flathead River enroute. A trip up the North Fork of the Flathead River is a step back in time. Residents enjoy their solitude and understand the balance of nature in an area where the endangered grey wolf and the threatened grizzly bear are making come backs.

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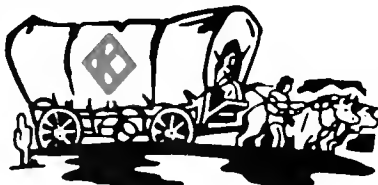
Bigfork

Situated in the northeastern corner of Flathead Lake, Bigfork is a charming community-minded area. The center of arts and crafts in the valley, it sports the popular Bigfork Summer Playhouse, the Village Art Center, two well-known jelly and preserve businesses, art galleries and much more. Whether it's the annual whitewater canoe and kayak races in the spring, the arts festival each summer, the Christmas decorating each winter, or the fireworks on July Fourth, there is much to do in this lake oriented resort town.

The Swan River widens into the lake at Bigfork, spawning resorts and marinas. The new Eagle Bend Golf Course offers a challenge to the public wanting play with a scenic vista.

Small Communities With a Big Welcome

Traveling along Highway 2 toward Glacier National Park, the communities of Hungry Horse, Martin City and Coram spring up. The first is the turnoff to Hungry Horse Dam and Reservoir and the South Fork of the Flathead River. The road also leads to the edge of the Bob



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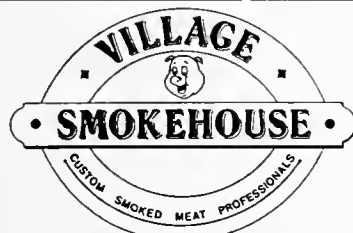
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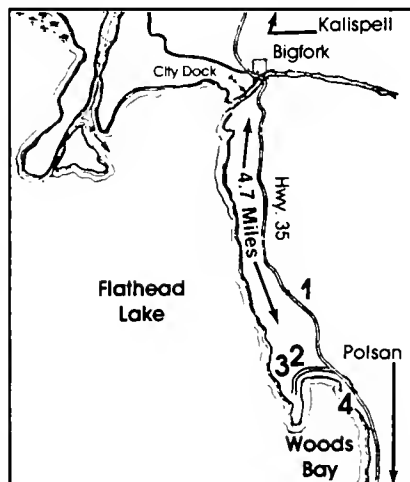
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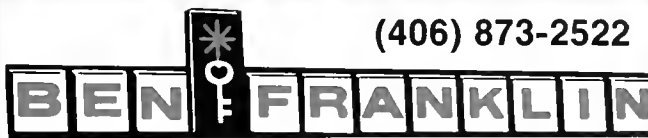


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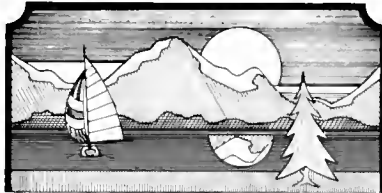
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Points of Interest

Glacier National Park

Going-To-The-Sun Road

stopping points include:

St. Mary Visitor Center

Wild Goose Island

Sunrift Gorge

Jackson Glacier Overlook

Logan Pass Visitor Center

Hidden Lake Trail and mountain goats

Moose Country

Lake McDonald Lodge

Two Medicine Entrance

(28 miles south of St. Mary)

Running Eagle Falls

Two Medicine Lake

Many Glacier Entrance

(8 miles north of St. Mary)

Grinnell Glacier

Many Glacier Hotel

Browning

(32 miles south of St. Mary)

Museum of the Plains Indian

Museum of Montana Wildlife

Summer

The **Lewis & Clark Expedition Festival** in Cut Bank on July 22 - 24 is an extravagant affair. The scheduled events include a chili cook-off, art auction, parades, old car show, log cutting contest, dancing and a black powder shoot.

The **North American Indian Days**, held each summer during the second week of July in Browning is a traditional gathering of all Indian nations from the United States, Canada and Mexico. This four-day event includes colorful native dances, an encampment, traditional games, cultural displays, sports activities, historical honorings, Indian rodeo and a gigantic Indian/Western parade. Ancient customs are brought to life for everyone to enjoy.

A calendar of events for **Glacier National Park** can be obtained at Park Visitor Centers or Park Headquarters.

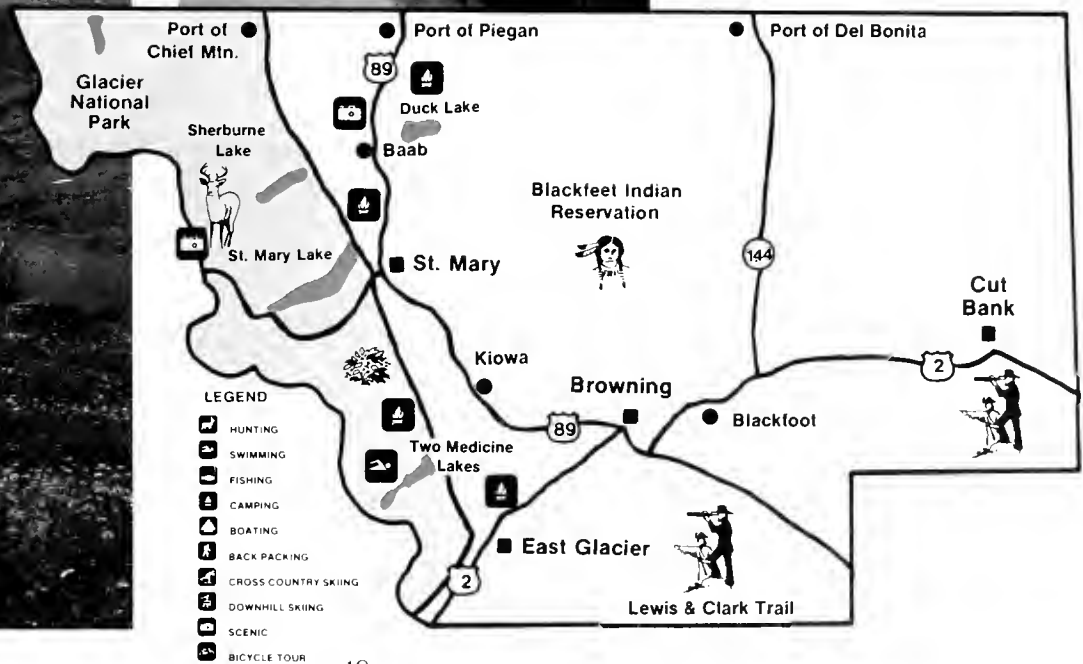




Dawn Mist Falls (above)
in Glacier National Park.



Bowman Lake photo
(left) courtesy of Glacier
Wilderness Guides.



Cut Bank

Cut Bank, named by the Lewis & Clark expedition, was established in 1910 as a major stopping point on the main line of the Great Northern Railway. Today you will find that the Amtrack route through Cut Bank and on through Glacier National Park is one of the most picturesque and exciting train rides you will ever experience.

Located on Highway 2, just 48 miles east of Glacier National Park, Cut Bank is in the rolling foot hills that span the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. These hills and the water flowing through them are a paradise for hunting and fishing enthusiasts. Lake Francis, south of Cut Bank on Highway 2 is an excellent place for anglers to catch a walleye or pike.

The City of Cut Bank, with its 4,000 residents, offers year-round activities and services to entertain and accommodate visitors. A championship golf course awaits to challenge even the most accomplished duffer. The city operates a 25-meter heated outdoor swimming pool, so regardless of the weather you can enjoy a refreshing dip. An athletic complex, located on the northeastern edge of town, provides summer recreation for all age groups. Facilities at the complex include softball and baseball diamonds. Four outdoor tennis courts, with an all-weather surface, have recently been completed by the city. Recreational activities extend into the fall and winter months in Cut Bank with a move indoors. A modern eight-lane bowling alley, a new four-court racquetball facility in the Civic Center, a roller skating rink and organized adult basketball leagues in one of the city's three gymnasiums keep everyone on the move.

Cut Bank's City Park offers travelers a shady spot for a picnic, clean restrooms and a small playground for children. A sewage dump and fresh water are available at the park also. The Jaycees have a small overnight trailer park with hook-ups on the western edge of town. Cut Bank's thriving business community provides travelers with a complete line of merchandise and services often found only in larger cities. These include an indoor shopping mall, a variety of fine restaurants and good motels, and a number of downtown stores providing goods and services.

Medical facilities are the most modern available, with a newly constructed 22-bed hospital staffed by four physicians. A modern medical clinic, located near the hospital, offers quality care and out-patient services to residents and visitors.

Near Cut Bank, where the Two Medicine and Badger Rivers join, you can find unique limestone formations corroded through time by wind and water. The pre-historic age of the dinosaur is verified here, the only place in the world where embryonic dinosaur eggs have been found.

More information on the area can be obtained by writing to the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1243, Cut Bank, Montana 59427.

Browning

Thirty-five miles west of Cut Bank, at the junction of Highways 2 and 89, you will approach the town of Browning. Founded in 1895, Browning has a population of 8,800. Adjacent to Glacier National Park, the Blackfeet Indian Nation consists of a half million acres of farming, ranching, and recreational land. Browning, the largest town on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, is the center of all reservation activities.

Eight major lakes and miles of rivers and streams flowing through the nearby mountains provide excellent fishing and other recreational opportunities, including camping, swimming, and water skiing.

Founded in 1941, the Museum of the Plains Indians presents permanent exhibits depicting the past and present way of life of the Tribal Peoples of the Northern Plains. There are two special exhibition galleries presenting the creative works of Native American artists and craftsmen. Bob Scriver's Museum of Montana Wildlife has taxidermy displays and sculpture pieces well worth seeing.

A special event held each summer in Browning, during the second week in July, is the North American Indian Days celebration and parade. Here, Native Americans gather from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico for a cultural exchange which includes games, celebrations, and colorful Indian dances.

Browning offers a wide variety of tourist facilities, including a shopping center, motels, restaurants, and service stations. Photographic supplies, specialty shops, and a tourist information center are there to help you plan your trip to Glacier Park.

For further information on events and facilities, contact the Browning Chamber of Commerce, Browning, MT 59417.

East Glacier Park

Thirteen miles west of Browning on Highway 2, you approach the village of East Glacier Park. The beautiful, snow-capped mountains of Glacier Park appear to spring out from the prairie. East Glacier, long known as the Gateway to Glacier National Park, is located at the southeastern corner of this spectacular preserve and is a main Amtrak stopping point. Because of its easy accessibility by train, car or plane (from Glacier Park International Airport/KalisPELL), it is a favorite gathering spot for Glacier Park visitors.

The main attractions in the area include the historic Glacier Park Lodge and the Two Medicine entrance to the park. This area of the park has hiking and backpacking trails, camping and picnic grounds, scenic ranger conducted boat cruises and boat rentals on beautiful Two Medicine Lake.

East Glacier has the largest variety of facilities and supplies available in the park area, including comfortable, modern motels (some AAA rated), RV parks and campgrounds, a cafeteria, snack bars and a choice of fine restaurants. A general store with a deli and liquor

store, grocery stores, service stations with car rentals and lounges with live nightly entertainment are also located in the village. A laundromat, fine gift shops, horseback riding, and a challenging 9-hole golf course are nearby. Park Service personnel, as well as local merchants, can help with itineraries for park hikes, backpacking excursions, whitewater rafting trips and scenic launch cruises. Tours of the world famous Going-To-The-Sun Road aboard nostalgic 1930's bright red roll-back top coaches are a special treat.

For further information on East Glacier, including maps, businesses names and locations, write to the East Glacier Chamber of Commerce, Box 260, East Glacier Park, MT 59434.

St. Mary

Thirty-two miles north of East Glacier on Highway 89, you approach the small village of St. Mary, located at the main entrance to the park on the east side. A good variety of guest facilities are located here, including a lodge with motel units and cottages, fine restaurants, service stations, a large gift shop with special occasion items, a supermarket, a sporting goods store, and a laundromat. Also, several campgrounds are located in the area, including one just inside the park entrance.

Glacier National Park

After entering the park at St. Mary's take time to stop at the Visitor Center for an excellent slide presentation explaining how the work of the glaciers, done 10,000 years ago, has created the stunning topography seen today. You can find a wide variety of literature on Glacier Park, including trail and climbing guides, and flower books at the Visitor Center. The Park Service personnel who staff the center will gladly assist you with additional information on the park's attractions and activities.

Whether you plan to spend a part of the day, or several days in Glacier Park, some suggestions may be helpful. Since June, July and August are the peak season it is wise to make reservations in advance for a stay during these months. Bring some warm clothing such as a jacket or sweater, since the evenings and nights are cool, with temperatures often dropping to 40 or 45 degrees. In July and August, daytime temperatures are

usually from the mid 70's to low 80's at lower elevations. Be sure to bring your camera, and expect to use plenty of film, since Glacier Park is truly one of America's most spectacular vacation spots. And fortunately it is not plagued with the large crowds found in many other national parks.

This million acre wilderness of shimmering crystal lakes, jagged ice and snow-capped peaks has over 900 miles of hiking trails, both long and short. You can view and photograph, close up, glaciers, brilliant wildflowers, rushing mountain streams and tumbling waterfalls. The varied wildlife, including bighorn sheep, mountain goats, deer, elk and moose, and both black and grizzly bears can be seen and photographed. Going-To-The-Sun Road, the remarkable main route through the park, crosses the continental divide at Logan Pass. There glacier lilies pop through the snowbanks, which linger into late July. Some of the major park trailheads are in this area, such as the Highline Trail to Granite Park Chalet, or the trail over Gunsight Pass to Sperry Chalet and Glacier. These backcountry chalets, reached only by trail, provide overnight lodging and eating facilities. Information can be obtained by writing to Belton Chalets, West Glacier, MT 59936.

As you drive along this architectural wonder and enjoy the scenery at the many turnouts provided, you may notice the bright tour buses. A common sight, they provide striking contrast to the white snowbanks. In addition to conducting tours over Logan Pass, these buses transport visitors from one hotel to another throughout the park. The buses and hotels are owned and operated by the main concessionaire in the park, Glacier Park Inc., East Glacier Park, MT 59434. These large, Swiss-style hotels, a major attraction in the park, are located at Lake McDonald, Many Glacier, East Glacier, and the Prince-of-Wales, just across the border at Waterton, Alberta.

Whether your vacation plans include photography, camping, boating, fishing, hiking, or just relaxing and enjoying the scenery, you're certain to enjoy this *Switzerland of North America*.

For further information, contact Park Headquarters, West Glacier, MT 59936. Our Western Montana hospitality is awaiting you. Hope to see you soon!

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Mountain
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The best there is around!*

Gerald Nelson
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Points of Interest

Glacier National Park

Going-To-The-Sun Highway
Wild Goose Island
Jackson Glacier Overlook
Logan Pass Visitor Center
Lake McDonald Lodge
Glacier Park Lodge
Running Eagle Falls
Sunrift Gorge

A **Calendar of Events** for Glacier National Park can be obtained at Park Visitor Centers or Park Headquarters.



St. Mary's Lake photo by Paul Dostert.

A view (right) from the famed Going-To-The-Sun Highway.

Bear grass (below) photo by Paul Dostert.



Two Medicine Area photo courtesy of Glacier Wilderness Guides.



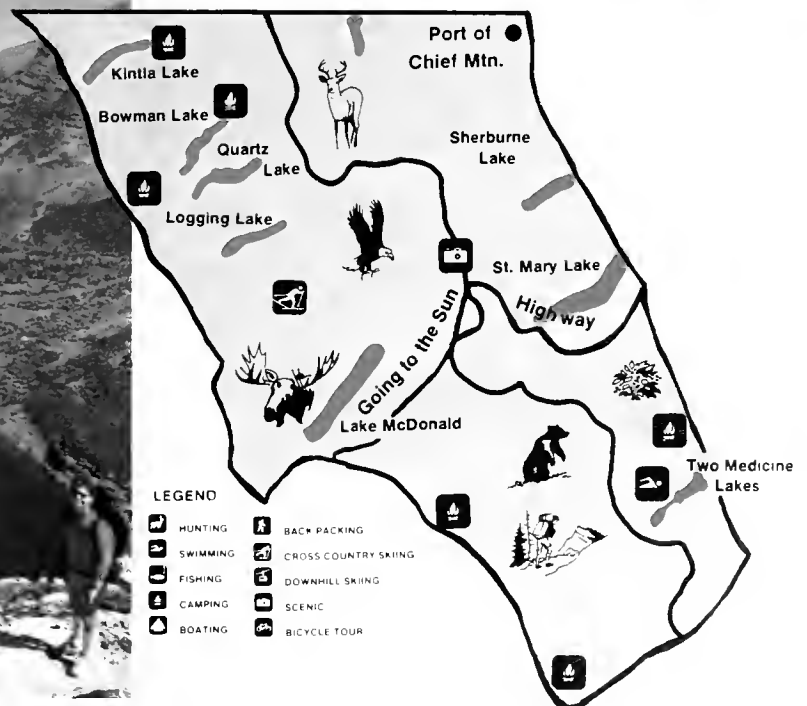
Lake McDonald photo (above) courtesy of Glacier Wilderness Guides.



Hole-In-The-Wall Campground photo courtesy of Glacier Wilderness Guides.



Pitamakan Pass photo courtesy of Glacier Wilderness Guides.





The American Alps

Best among the boundless scenic opportunities in Glacier Country is Glacier National Park. Located 35 miles northeast of Kalispell, along Highway 2, is the west entrance to the famed Going-To-The-Sun Road. This 55-mile scenic highway winds through mountain valleys carved by ancient glaciers, over Logan Pass and through the St. Mary Valley, ending at Glacier's eastern prairie boundary in St. Mary Village. The stark contrasts of pristine cedar and pine forests, sheer rock walls and the endless expanse of Big Sky Country makes this drive unforgettable. A true geologic and scenic wonder, Glacier has been termed *Gem Of The Continent*. From Glacier's Triple Divide Mountain, winter's snowmelt flows north into Canada's Hudson Bay, south into the Gulf of Mexico and west into the Pacific.

Wildlife abounds in Glacier. From the Columbian ground squirrel and *whistling* marmot, to the endangered bald eagle and the respected grizzly bear, viewing opportunities are unequalled. Deer and moose are abundant along Glacier's roads. For those who drive into Many Glacier Valley, encounters with mountain goats and mountain sheep are common. Black bears are frequent visitors along the roadsides too, so keep your binoculars and cameras ready and don't forget to bring lots of film. Remember though — always take care in your encounters with wildlife. Animals are as unpredictable as people.

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Glacier's visitor season begins near the time when Going-To-The-Sun Road is cleared of its winter accumulation of snow, usually sometime during the first week in June. From June through mid-September tourist facilities are in full operation, offering accommodations of all descriptions, including gift shops, grocery stores, cafes and automotive services. These facilities are available both inside the park and in the surrounding communities of West Glacier, East Glacier, St. Mary and Babb. Though Glacier does not suffer the crowding experienced in other park areas, it is a good idea to secure advance reservations.

For the camping public, Glacier offers a variety of fine camping facilities. Each of the seven campgrounds feature centrally located flush toilets and water, picnic tables, fireplace grates and RV dumping stations. Private campgrounds adjacent to Glacier offer a variety of "full RV hookups."

Glacier is a hiker's park. With over 700 miles of back country trails and 60 back country campsites, it offers the visitor opportunities unexcelled in the world. The serenity and splendor of Glacier's wilderness cannot be explained. Sample for yourself the experience of a night under the stars in Glacier Country. For the less adventurous, there are many miles of day hike trails. If you'd like a night in the back country, but don't want to carry camping gear, a night at a back country chalet is a treat of unparalleled beauty. Back country guided trips and horse rides are also available on Glacier's trails.



Blackfeet Indians. Photo by Glacier Studio.

During the summer season the National Park Service offers many interpretive programs, including ranger conducted hikes and evening campfire programs. Visitor center information, planning services and children's



There's more than one great place to stay at Glacier National Park. There are seven.

Glacier Park Lodge. Many Glacier Hotel. Lake McDonald Lodge. Prince of Wales Hotel. Village Inn. Rising Sun Motor Inn. Or Swiftcurrent Motor Inn.

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And each provides the finest in lodging hospitality with all the extras. Many of these resorts offer entertainment. Tours. And innovative restaurants like the new Goat Lick Steak and Rib House at Glacier Park Lodge, which features hearty portions of down-to-earth Western fare.

At Glacier Park Lodge you'll also enjoy the challenging nine-hole golf course, an outdoor heated swimming pool, hayrides with real cowboy steak cookouts. There are even convention facilities for up to 300 people.

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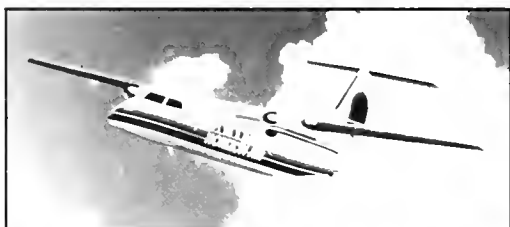
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The Visitor Center at Logan's Pass in Glacier National Park.
Photo by Glacier Studio.



Bus at Jackson Viewpoint in Glacier National Park.
Photo by Glacier Studio.

activities are also featured. Boat tours on Glacier's major lakes are a rare treat, with many tours featuring ranger naturalist talks. For white water fanciers, rafting trips are available along the Middle Fork or North Fork Rivers. These trips, offered by several rafting companies, feature half-day, all-day or overnight excursions, and provide a unique, exciting adventure in Glacier Country.

While Glacier's major tourist season lasts from June through mid-September, the other seasons offer activities and scenic opportunities of unexcelled beauty. Early spring is an excellent time to view wildlife of all kinds, especially along the Camas Road and in the Many Glacier Valley. Fall in Glacier reveals colors of indescribable beauty, etched among the early high country snows and reflected in the calm of glacial lakes. Winter finds Glacier's roads turned into an exciting network of cross-country ski trails, offering a solitude and silence experienced by few.

A journey through Glacier Country is not complete without sampling the grandeur of Glacier National Park.



Here is the picture that is worth ten thousand words; an artist's conception of Ronan's new golf course — scheduled to open in 1988 — with the majestic Mission Mountains as a backdrop.

*Grandeur of the Mission Mountains . . . lure of trout streams and lakes . . .
productiveness of fertile land . . . lore and history of an Indian civilization . . .
all here in Ronan and Montana's fabulous Mission Valley.*

This ad is sponsored by the Ronan businesses listed below:

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*Dining in the shadow of the Mission Mtns.
Highway 93 - five miles south of Ronan, Charlo*

Big Sky Paint Manufacturing

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*Gas, propane, convenience store
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Ronan Pioneer

*Bringing you Hometown News since 1910
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Ronan Sports & Western

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Ronan Telephone Company

312 Main S.W., Ronan

**St. Luke Community Hospital/
Nursing Home**

107 - 6th Avenue S.W., Ronan

Uptown Cafe

*Highway 93
4199 Duck Road, Ronan*

Valley Bank of Ronan

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Lake County — with Flathead Lake at its front door and the majestic Mission Mountains in the background, is an outdoor paradise. Summer activities are varied and appeal to everyone from the young to the young at heart. Historical museums, theater, hiking, fishing, hunting, photography, swimming, art festivals, music festivals, regattas, fairs, pow-wows, golfing and many special events throughout the year are scheduled. Relax, grab your camera and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Points of Interest

Mission Mountain Wilderness
Swan Valley Area
Wild Horse Island
Mission Mountain Winery
Yellow Bay Biological Station
Kerr Dam
Port Polson Princess
Glacier Raft Company
Sandpiper Gallery
Grows Nest Gallery
Stan Lynde Gallery
Lincoln Museum
Miracle of American Museum
Polson Historical Museum
Garden of the Rockies Museum
Mission Mountain Museum
Flathead Indian Museum
Four Winds Trading Post
Ninepipe Bird Refuge and Reservoir
Ronan and Polson Golf Courses
Mission Church
Port Polson Players Theater
Flathead Lake

Spring

Casino Nite
Cherry Blossom Festival
District 5 High School Rodeo

Summer

Arlee Pow Wow
Kerr Country Rodeo
Elmo Pow Wow
Cherry Festival and Pit Spit Contest
Lake County Junior Fair
Montana State Fiddlers Contest
Mission Mountain Music Fest
Crawdads Days
Art in the Park
Shakespeare in the Park
4-H Horse Show & Fair
Copper Cup Regatta
Pioneer Days
Good Old Days



Polson Country Club photo by Paul Fugleberg.



St. Ignatius Mission photo (above) by Paul Fugleberg.



Polson and Flathead Lake photo (left) by Paul Fugleberg.

Port Polson Princess photo (right) courtesy of Gull Printing.



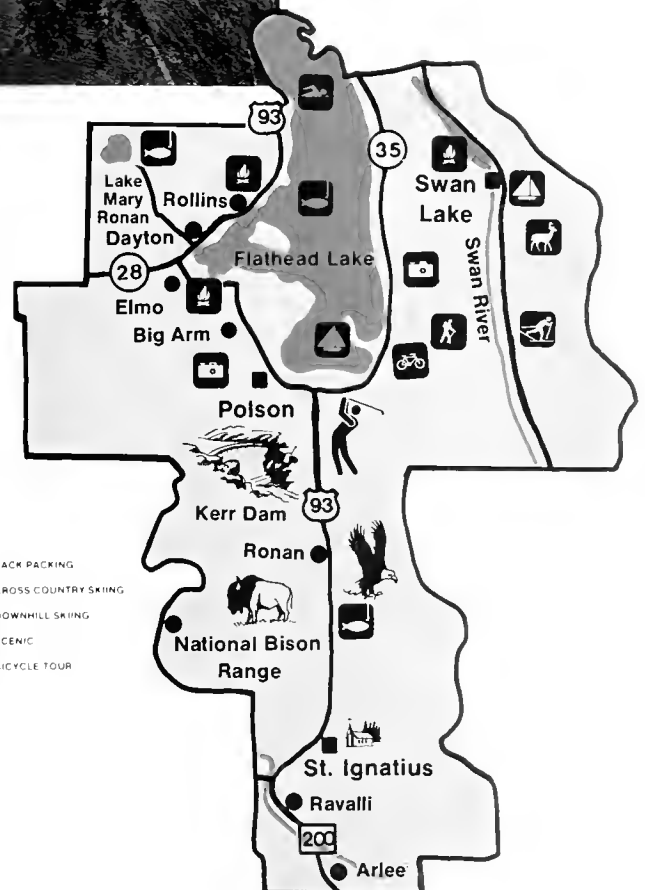
Copper Cup Regatta
photo (above) by
Paul Fugleberg.



Cherry Pit Spitting
contest photo (far left)
by Paul Fugleberg.



Flathead Lake photo
(left) by
Paul Fugleberg.



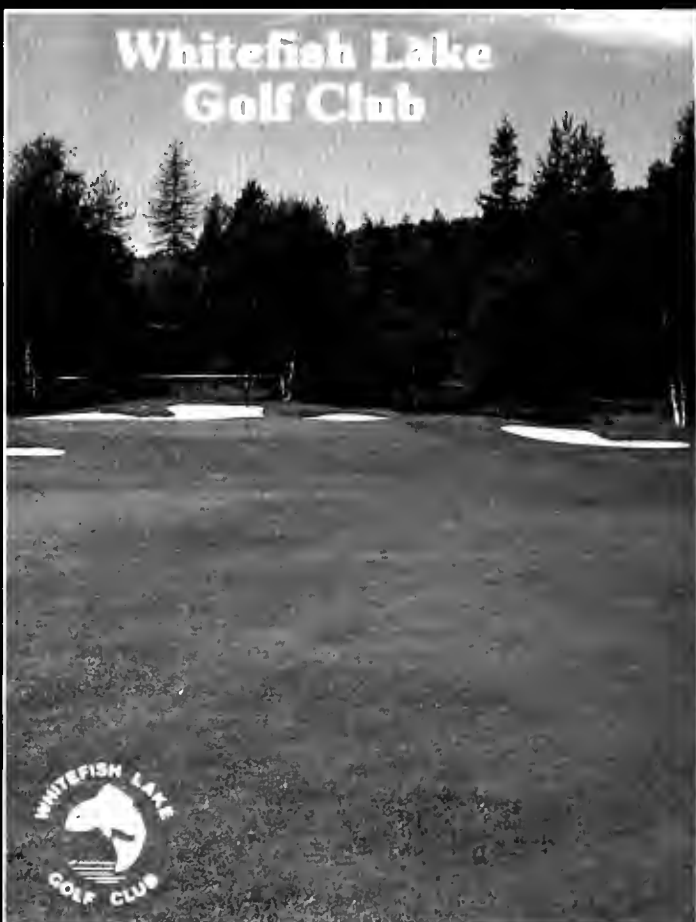
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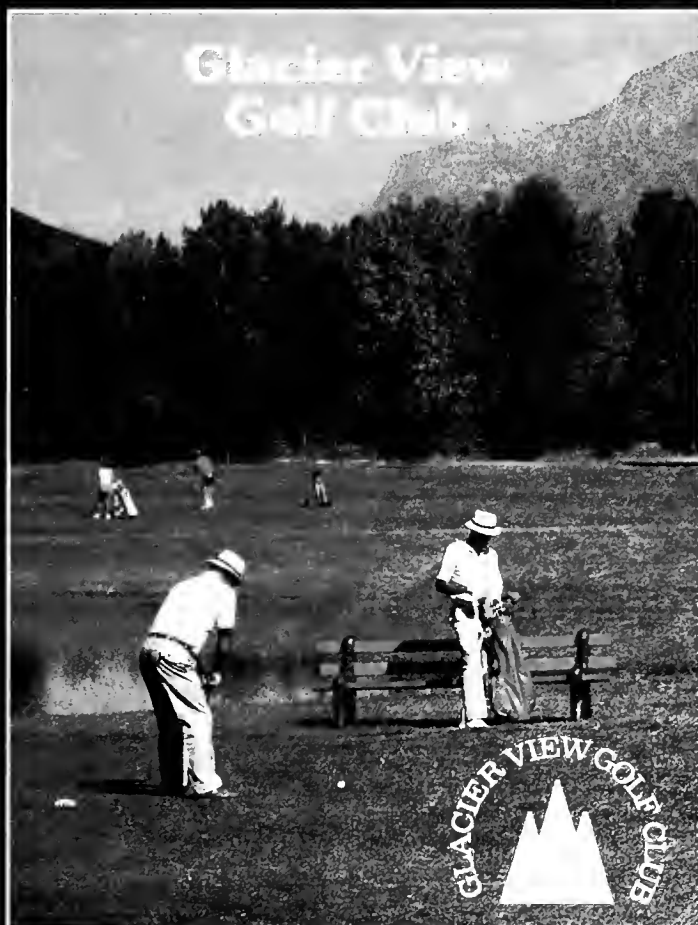


Marlin Hanson
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Don Waller
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Valley, contact the
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Golf Association,
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59912 or call
(406) 892-3242.



Flathead & Mission Valleys

There's an old saying that he who goes around in circles goes nowhere.

Not so in the Flathead and Mission Valleys. You can go around in several circles here, and while you end up at the beginning, you've been to a lot of places of interest.

For instance:

Circle Tour No. 1 is the 90 mile *around the lake circle* that begins at any point on Flathead Lake's shoreline. For convenience sake, start at Polson.

Going up Sunnyslope Hill north on Highway 93 and through the forest on top, you'll come to viewpoints of Wild Horse Island, largest island in the lake and one of the newest state parks. Take a look through the binoculars and you may see a part of the island's big horn sheep herd in the higher, rocky parts of the island.

Picnic stops can be made at Walstad, Flathead Lake or Elmo state parks. At Dayton, Lake Mary Ronan and its fabulous fishing is just eight miles west of the highway. North of Dayton is Wild Horse Gallery and its display of Don Lincoln's wood carvings.

Farther on up the shore are West Shore State Park and the Flathead Lake Lookout, site of a mass sighting of the big lake's rarely seen "monster" fish which some folks believe are sturgeon. Sightings are documented back to 1889.

Take the north shore cutoff at Somers across to Bigfork, the rustic resort village on the banks of the Swan



Sailboat on Sacajawea Park in Polson. Photo by Paul Fugleberg.

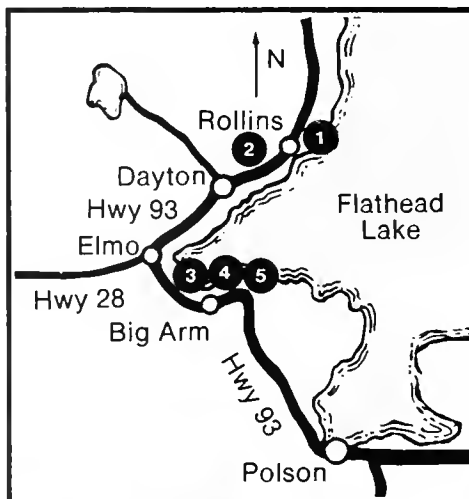
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River where it empties into Flathead Lake. There's great golfing at Eagle Bend and excellent art galleries and summer theatre offerings. On the south edge of Big Fork is Wayfarer's State Park.

East Shore Highway 35 could well be called *Cherry Blossom Lane* in the spring because of the numerous orchards. During the harvest — mid-July to early August — the fruit is sold from roadside stands.

Visitors are welcome at the University of Montana Biological Station at Yellow Bay and there are more state campgrounds at Yellow Bay and on the west side of Finley Point.

Route 35 turns west at the south end of the lake and cuts back to Highway 93 and Polson, a true vacationer's headquarters with its offerings of golf, water sports, boat tours, summer theatre, museums, galleries, shopping areas in its nautical theme business district, motels, rodeos, regattas, fiddlers' contests, art shows, parades, whitewater rafting, and more.

Circle Tour No. 2 takes visitors five miles south and one mile west of Polson on Highway 93. Here lies the Pablo Reservoir National Wildlife Refuge. This 2.7 square mile body of water serves as a sanctuary for dozens of species of waterfowl. In this area also is the Mission Valley Speedway, which hosts weekly stock car races on Saturday nights through the summer.

Seven miles south of Polson is Pablo, the headquarters of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Also on this site is the Salish & Kootenai Community College. Established in 1977, the college is one of the preeminent Indian colleges in the nation.

Five miles south of Pablo is the town of Ronan, gateway to the Mission Mountain Wilderness. Ronan offers the Garden of the Rockies Museum and the new 9-hole golf course, Mission Mountain Country Club.

Three miles north of St. Ignatius is the historically interesting Four Winds Historic Village and Trading Post recreated by Preston Miller.

At St. Ignatius visit the historic Mission Church with its set of murals and frescoes worthy of any European cathedral. The paintings were done by Brother Joseph Carignano in his spare time from kitchen duties. A truly inspirational project. There's also a small museum next to the church. On the way out of St. Ignatius, Doug Allard's Indian Museum and Trading Post is a must stop. Inside is one of the better collections of Indian artifacts in Montana.

At Ravalli turn right on Highway 200 as far as Dixon, hang another right on Route 212 and go to Moiese and the National Bison Range. Visit the informational center where the story of the bison is told in literature, films, pictorial displays and other exhibits.

The real highlight of a Bison Range visit is a two-hour Red Sleep Mountain self-guided drive, where you may find yourself in the midst of some of the 350 to 450 bulky bison that are at home on the range.

Two shorter self-guided tours are also available — the 10-mile winter drive and the three-mile Buffalo Prairie



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Mission Mountain Music Fest

jaunt around the exhibition pastures. The shorter self-guided tours are open year around. There are also picnic areas and an easy-to-take nature walk.

When leaving the Bison Range, turn right on Route 212 and head north through Charlo and past the Ninepipe

National Wildlife Refuge to Highway 93 and back to Ronan and Polson.

Finally, Circle Tour No. 3 will put a few miles on the family flivver — and it should take at least two days for maximum enjoyment. From Polson go up the west shore of Flathead Lake to Highway 2 in Kalispell, then east on Highway 2 to Glacier National Park, cross through the park on Going-To-The-Sun-Road, then go south on Highway 89 to Route 40 and Highway 2 and back west again. Be sure to visit Hungry Horse Dam and take the self-guided tour.

Leave Highway 2 at Columbia Falls and head south on Route 206 to State Highway 35 through Creston, Bigfork and down the east shore of Flathead Lake to Polson.

Those are three of the more popular visitors' *circle tours* in the area. Other folks like to make up their own circular sidetrips . . . check out backcountry roads, mountain trails, Kerr Dam, Indian pow-wows at Elmo and Arlee, lake fishing, and more. Local chambers of commerce have maps, brochures and information on fishing licenses and other use permits that may be required for fishing and wilderness hiking within the Flathead Indian Reservation boundaries.

Now . . . go out and enjoy!

For more information contact the Polson Chamber of Commerce at 883-5969 or the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes at 675-2700.

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3rd week in September

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LINCOLN COUNTY

This Is Kootenai Country

The green waters of the Kootenai River dominate Lincoln County in Montana's northwestern corner. White clouds float in the clear blue sky and overhead a bald eagle flies. Pine forests blanket the mountains while rushing streams and pristine lakes team with fish. Grasses, daisies and sunflowers wave in gentle breezes.

Points of Interest

Bull Lake Recreation Area: Take Highway 56 out of Libby and Troy for camping, boating, swimming and water skiing.

Cabinet Mountain Wilderness: Well marked trails for short or overnight excursions. Maps are available at the Kootenai National Forest office in Libby.

Champion Logging Mill Tour: Offered during the summer months, this tour lasts 1½ hours and starts each weekday at 1 p.m. in Libby.

Heritage Museum: Open May through August, this Libby museum offers exhibits detailing the historical heritage of the area.

Historical Village: Located in Eureka, this is an enjoyable break for the entire family.

Kootenai Falls: Falls overlook and picnic area are located north of Libby on Highway 2.

Kootenai River: Canoeing and rafting are popular on this blue ribbon trout stream.

Lake Koocanusa: This 90-mile long lake is well-known for its excellent fishing. Kokanee salmon, cut throat, and Dolly Varden trout, as well as ling, whitefish and kamloops give anglers a variety of choices.

Libby Dam Visitor Center: Open May through October.

Murry Springs Fish Hatchery: This hatchery, located seven miles northwest of Eureka, releases more than one-half million fingerlings and yearlings into our streams and lakes each year.

Nordic Wonderland: Libby's business and government are creating a Nordic atmosphere in this beautiful valley in the Cabinet Mountains.

Ross Creek Cedars: A lush hideaway off Highway 56 with a nature trail and picnic area.

Spring

Eureka Rendevous the second weekend of March.

Summer

Yaak River Raft Race in early June.

Fourth of July celebration in Troy and Eureka.

Logger Days the third weekend of July in Libby.

Eureka Rodeo the third weekend of July.

Lincoln County Fair the middle of August in Libby.

Fall

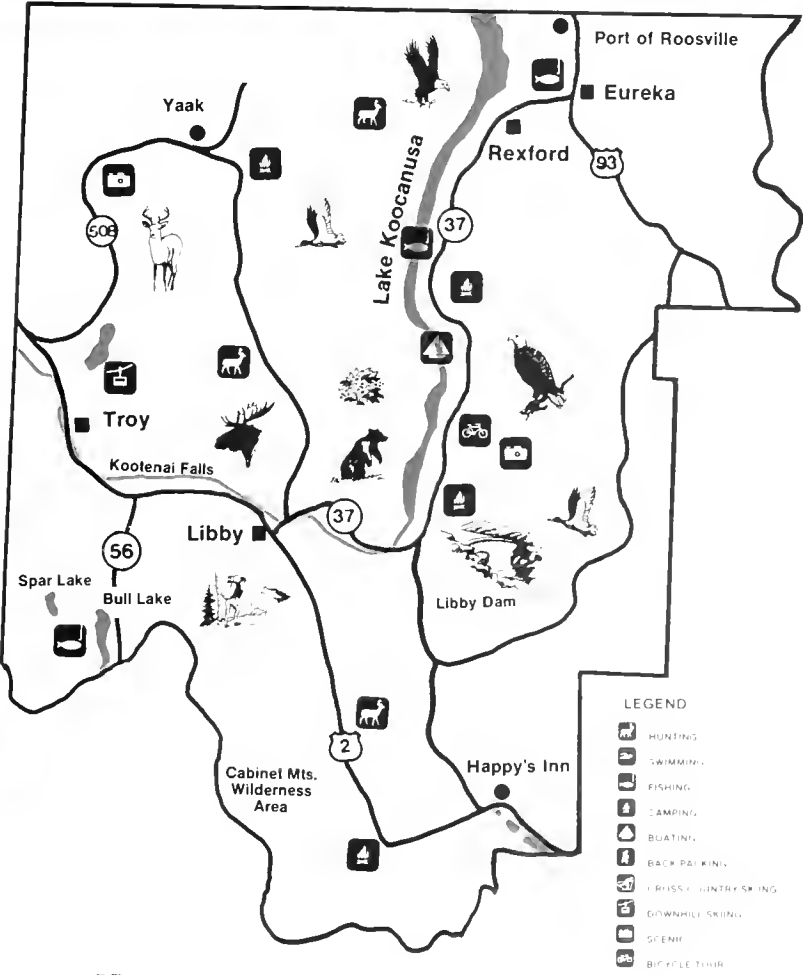
Libby Nordicfest the third weekend of September.

Libby Craft Show the weekend before Thanksgiving.





All photos courtesy of the Libby Chamber of Commerce.



Libby

Libby, Lincoln County's largest town and county seat, nestles in the Kootenai Valley between the banks of the Kootenai River and the Cabinet Mountains. While the major industries continue to be logging and mining, tourism and outdoor recreation are expanding into a third principle industry.

Greater Libby, with over 10,000 in population, is opening its arms to the world's nature lovers. For years it has quietly shielded its many natural assets from all but the most discriminating eyes. With unlimited year round outdoor possibilities, Libby is now becoming the place for any season.

A theme unification of the town to a *Nordic* look, in celebration of its Scandinavian heritage, is in progress. City government is promoting a beautification project which promises to raise city landscapes to a level closer to the natural beauty of the surrounding area.

The summer season begins with Memorial weekend when the campers and anglers arrive. The Kootenai National Forest, with headquarters in Libby, has 35 recreation sites on more than 2 million acres. Private and state recreation sites add camping choices, many of which are still free. Several lookouts on the Kootenai may be rented for overnight stays with magnificent views.

The Kootenai River is classified as a *blue ribbon* trout stream. Libby Dam, located on the Kootenai River 17



Photo courtesy of Kootenai National Forest Office.



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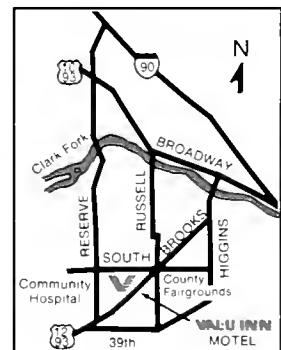




Photo courtesy of Kootenai National Forest Office.

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miles north of town, forms a 90-mile long Lake Koocanusa. Fishing in Lake Koocanusa is excellent. Kokanee salmon, cut throat, rainbow and Dolly Varden trout, as well as ling, whitefish, and newly released kamloops give anglers a variety of choices. Smaller streams and lakes that dot the region yield trout and bass.

Other summer activities include hiking, boating, sailing, water sports, rock climbing, biking and unlimited photography. Take Highway 56 out of Libby and Troy for camping, boating, swimming and water skiing in the Bull Lake Recreation Area. Cabinet View Golf Club is open from April through October and provides golf for greens fees with magnificent mountain vistas. In mid-July the community celebrates Logger Days with carnival, parade, logging events, river raft race, and plenty of family fun. The Heritage Museum, open May through August in Libby, offers exhibits detailing the historical heritage of the area.

Campers and sightseers make way for hunters. Early seasons for duck, geese and grouse, as well as bow hunting for larger game, begin. These are followed by the regular season for deer, elk, bear, and by special permit, for moose, mountain sheep and goats. With plentiful black bear, deer and elk populations and several active outfitters, many out-of-state hunters are being attracted to the area. All hunting and fishing laws of the state of Montana apply. Detailed information is available from the Montana Fish and Game Department in Helena.

Nordicfest, a community celebration of its Scandinavian heritage, arrives the third week in September. At the same time the larch trees at higher elevations begin to turn gold. Fall foliage changes provide color spectaculars throughout the mountains and along the streams.

Camera buffs find unlimited photo opportunities as the colors of the western larch, mountain maple, and aspen brighten the hillsides.

With the first snowfall, the area develops a new personality. The soft swish of cross country skis is heard on the many trails provided. Downhill skiing is also available at a locally developed ski spot — Turner Mountain. As the lakes freeze, ice fishing becomes popular. Snowmobile enthusiasts have many well groomed trails to follow and explore.

Completing the seasonal roundup is spring. It arrives with melting snow, swollen streams and glorious wild flowers. Birds return and fill the forest with their songs and activity. A spring bear hunting season and renewed stream fishing occur. The Libby Chamber of Commerce sponsors a renowned quality Art Show the last weekend in April. Prominent artists from throughout the Northwest participate.

The Libby Chamber of Commerce maintains an office year round on Highway 2 in the corner of Fireman's Park. Thousands of tourists visit each year and receive free maps and area information. Call 406-293-3832 for additional information.



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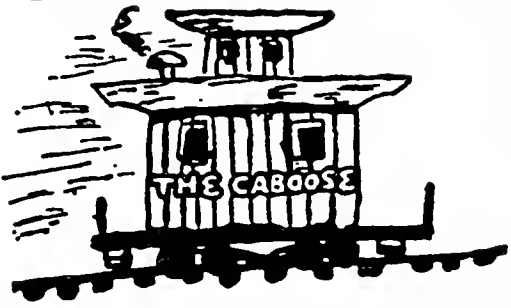
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BLACKFEET COUNTRY

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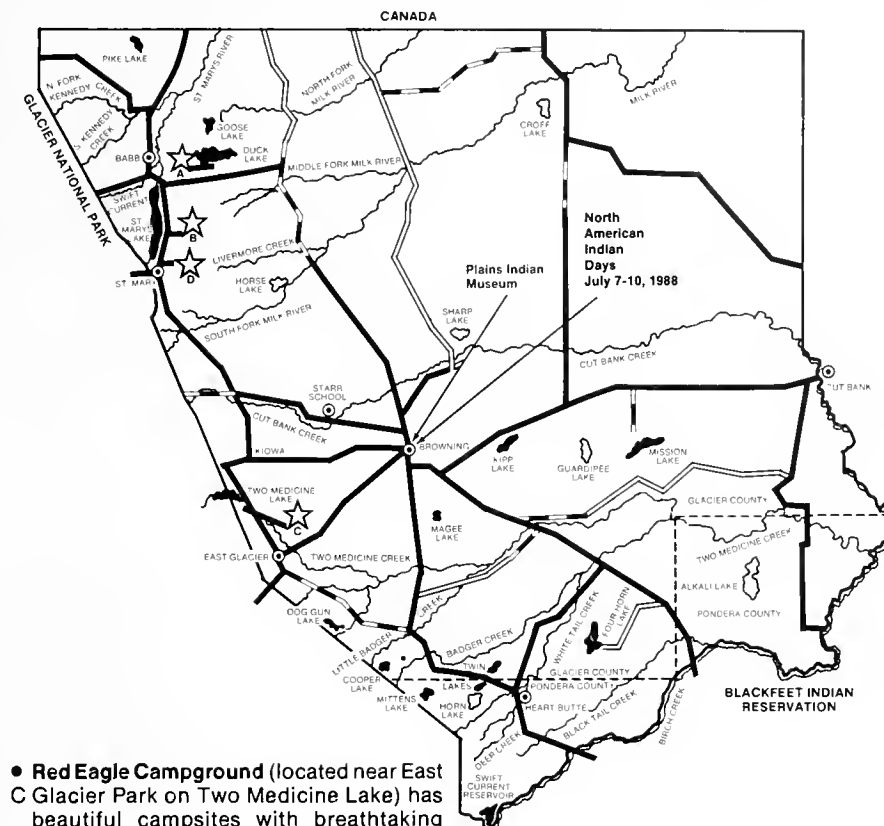
A gateway to Glacier National Park, near Waterton International Peace Park and within easy driving distance of Yellowstone National Park.

The Blackfeet People (Pi'Kunee), original inhabitants of this area, were the most powerful tribe on the Northwestern Plains. According to the legend, the name "Black-footed people" was arrived at because the moccasins were blackened by soot from prairie fires. Today the Blackfeet still call the "Land of the shining mountains" home. By taking pride in Mother Earth, culture is relived here in Blackfeet Country.

- North American Indian Days is held each summer during the second week in July in Browning, Montana. A traditional gathering of all Nations from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico take part in a four-day extravaganza of colorful native dances, an encampment, traditional games, cultural displays, sports activities, historical honorings, Indian rodeo and a gigantic Indian/Western parade. Ancient customs are brought to life creating an "Enduring Value of the Blackfeet, Expressed in Modern Tradition."

Outstanding Camping and Recreation Available

- **Duck Lake Campground** has some of the A best trout fishing in all of North America. There are campsites on the lakeshore, a tribal boat dock and plenty of awesome beauty that will inspire anyone, only minutes from Glacier National Park. Call (406) 338-5042 for reservations.
- **Chewing Blackbones KOA Campground** B is located on scenic St. Mary's Lake. It has 120 developed sites (electricity, sewer, and water) plus numerous tent sites. Enjoy the marina, hot showers, laundromat, coffee shop, four public picnic facilities and lots of children's play area, only five minutes from Glacier National Park and 10 minutes to trout fishing at Duck Lake. Call (406) 732-5542 for reservations.



- **Red Eagle Campground** (located near East Glacier Park on Two Medicine Lake) has beautiful campsites with breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains. Good fishing, picnicking and water skiing are wonderful events for the summer months and in the winter, ice fishing is a must. Laundry facilities and a camp store are helpful to the camper. Only minutes to Glacier National Park, the visitor has everything at his fingertips for enjoying nature. For reservations call (406) 226-5512.

- **St. Mary's KOA Campground** is a full service campground located 1/4 mile from St. Mary. Over 200 campsites, laundromat, store and miniature golfing. The KOA campgrounds are owned by the Blackfeet Nation. For reservations call (406) 732-4422.

- 175 miles of rivers and streams, 8 major lakes, offer the best fishing in Montana.

Museums—Browning hosts two museums, including the renowned Museum of the Plains Indian opened in 1941 and the Bob Scriver Montana Museum of Wildlife and Bronze.

Other Festivities and Highlights

- Hell's Half-acre rodeo, reliving old west activities, located near gravesite of James Willard Schults, and the Two Medicine area, site of ancient Piskun, or buffalo jumps. This unique little rodeo is produced by descendants of Chewing Blackbones, held each Mother's Day. An Indian Pony Express relay race is held each Labor Day.

- Historical land markings including; Old Agency, Camp Disappointment, Ghost Ridge, traditional landmarks held in esteem to the local people.

Modern Highlights

- Tourist information booth, Tribal Newspaper, brochures, multi-media cultural displays.
- Indoor recreation includes an Olympic size pool, sauna, whirlpool, weightroom, racquetball court, housed at the Glenn Heavy Runner Memorial Pool Complex.
- The Museum of the Plains Indians features historic and cultural displays, an art gallery and craft shop.
- Hotel, motel accommodations, restaurants, craftshops, art displays, much more.
- Hiking, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, picnickers, swimming, rodeos, horseback riding, waterskiing, sightseeing and cross country runs.

For information contact:

Blackfeet Planning Department
P.O. Box "D"
Browning, Montana 59417
(406) 338-7406.

MINERAL COUNTY

The Northwest's Best Kept Secret

The best kept secret in the northwest is Mineral County. The Interstate 90 gateway into Montana from Idaho, this plush, evergreen lined corridor into the state boasts dozens of trout packed mountain lakes and streams. Here the powerful Clark Fork River winds its way through the Bitterroot Mountains, joined by the crystal clear waters of the St. Regis River, on its way to the sea.

Summer

A local **Trade Fair** sponsored by Superior Area Merchants will be held June 25.

The **Fourth of July** celebration in St. Regis includes kids games, parade, softball tournament and fireworks.

Alberton's Railroad Day in July features a parade, hang gliders, a local art show, music and refreshments.

The **Mineral County Fair and Superior Lions Club Rodeo**, held August 5-7, is an exciting event for the entire family. Open class and 4-H exhibits, horse show, youth style show, fat stock show, parade, music and lots of food are some of the events scheduled. There is no admission charge.

A **Super Flea Market** is held in the St. Regis City Park on May 28, 29, 30 and September 10 and 11.

Fall

The **Mullan Trail Rendezvous** will be held September 3-5 in Superior. A black powder shoot, seneca walk, tomahawk throw and other events will be held for black powder enthusiasts. The rendezvous offers primitive and modern camps, frontier clothing is encouraged.

Mineral County's more than 728,700 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Rhode Island, is 82-percent owned by the U.S. Government via the Forest Service. There are five Lolo National Forest developed campgrounds — Sloway, Cabin City, Trout Creek, Quartz Flat and Clearwater Crossing. There are also more than 400 miles of backwood trails for hikers to enjoy.

The average summertime temperature of 80 degrees is enjoyed by the county's 3,600 residents who take advantage of three boating accesses to the Clark Fork to fish its tumbling waters. Others prefer to drive into Diamond or Missoula Lakes for a more peaceful setting. Facilities at Moore Lake have been especially designed to accommodate those who are wheelchair bound.

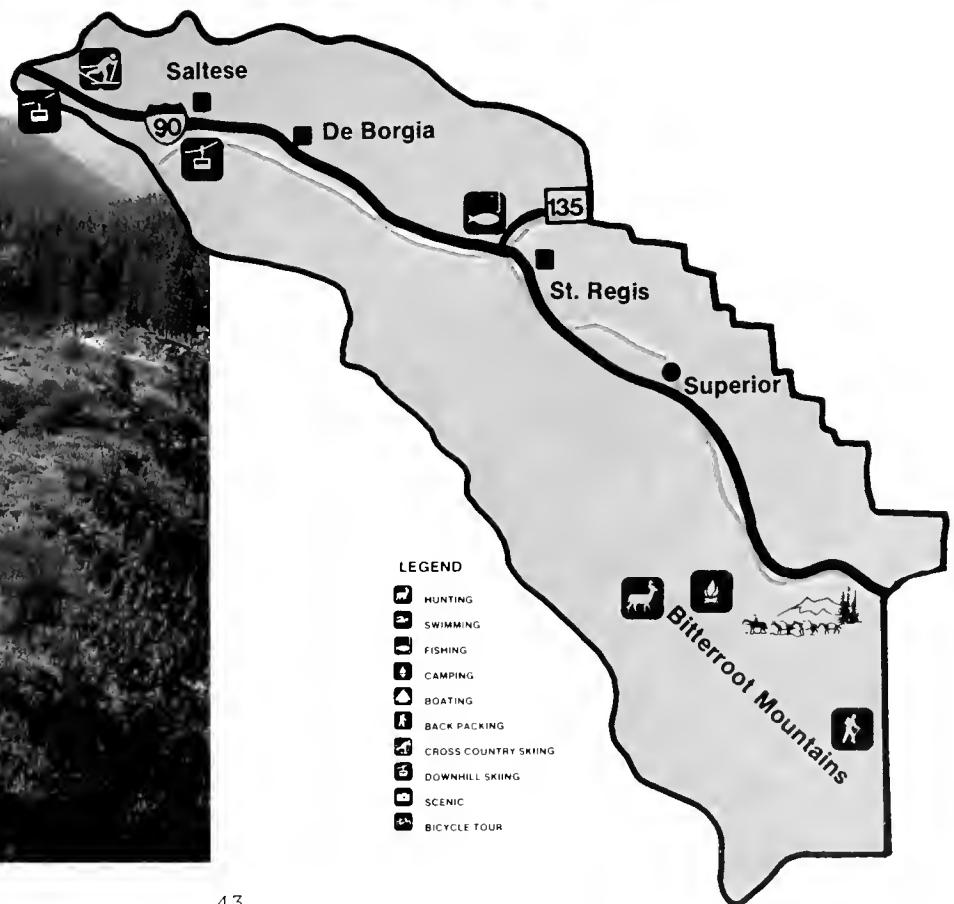
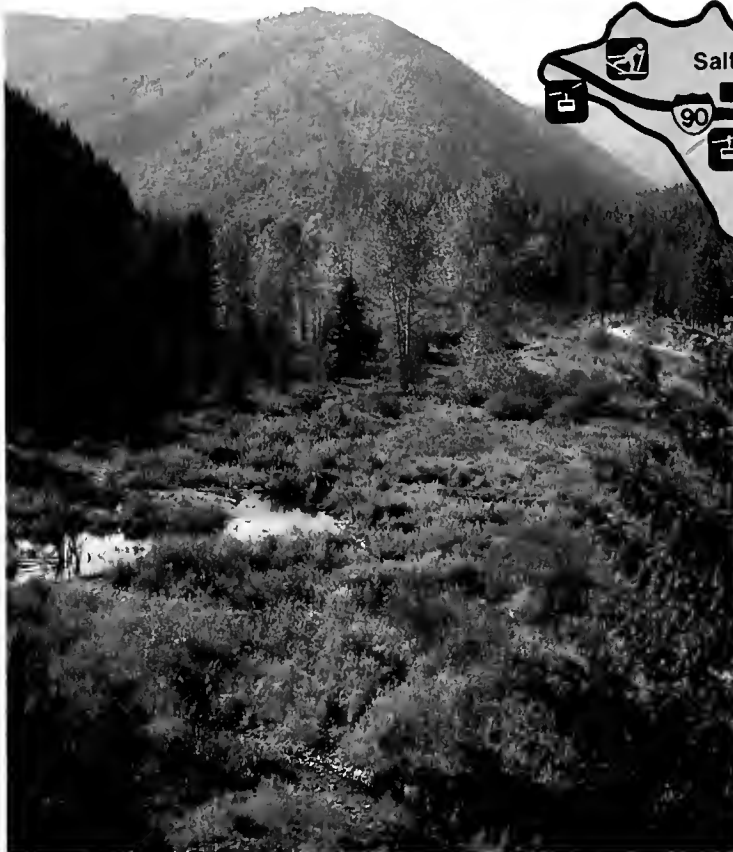
The county also has modern, comfortable facilities for the traveler in each of its six communities. The vacationer has his choice of motels convenient to the interstate or quieter quarters.

Established in 1914, the county was first settled in the 1860's after Lt. John Mullan of the U.S. Army built the military road through the area with his troops. The road building expedition took a year, during which time Mullan and his engineers measured elevation, snowfall,





All photos by Hearst.



temperatures and geologic formations. This crude trail from Walla Walla to Fort Benton began to see settlers traveling its route when gold was discovered in Idaho and Montana. Thousands of miners and prospectors pounded this rough road on their way to the Cedar Creek gold rush (near modern Superior) in 1869.

Mullan's calculations were scrutinized by railroad engineers for the Northern Pacific as they looked for a route through the Bitterroots. They laid their hard steel tracks in 1890, and in 1907 the Milwaukee Railroad followed the same course.

The Mullan Road also evolved, becoming the Yellowstone Trail in the early 1900's, then Highway 10. Now Interstate 90 follows much of the Mullan route. Yet a few fragments of the old trail still exist. A statue of Lt. Mullan stands in St. Regis, honoring his contribution.

The rolling Clark Fork River is experiencing a new, growing industry — white water rafting. The most exciting place to experience the thrill of riding the river's back is in the Scenic Cliffs Canyon near Alberton, with a licensed and knowledgeable guide at the helm.

In the fall the bugle of majestic elk echoes through the mountain draws. Steamy whitetail bucks lock horns in the ageless ritual of establishing territories. Beaver put the finishing touches on their twig and mud homes, while sleek black bears shop for their winter digs.

Winter and snow are no strangers to Mineral County, particularly at the western end, which may get from six to 12 feet of snowpack. Skiers and snowmobilers come from all around the northwest to revel in the white powder at Lookout Pass on the Montana-Idaho state line. The Lookout Pass ski area has slopes for novice to expert skiers and a cozy lodge for warmup and rest. Snowmobile clubs host annual poker rides and overnight excursions.

Mineral County is a flawless mix of historical color, natural beauty, recreational diversity and modern comfort. Once you have seen us, we will see you again.

Superior

Superior is the county seat of Mineral County. The old brick courthouse catches the eye of travelers entering town with its lush lawn and huge maple trees. Two large shady parks are available for picnickers to enjoy, with playground equipment close by for children. Families can also stop to take a plunge in the town's pool.

Superior lies near the middle of the county and serves as a hub for logging, lumbering and mining in the county. The full-service Mineral County Hospital is located at the eastern edge of town.

Overnight guests can visit the movie theater, shoot through the lines at the miniature golf course or tour the county museum. The museum reflects the mining, logging and railroading done in the area for the past 100 years. Or they can take a walking tour through town and enjoy ice cream at the local soda fountain. There are five motels/hotels to serve travelers and three restaurants for delicious dining. Live music is often featured at local watering holes.

The U.S. Forest Service Superior District of Lolo National Forest has its headquarters in town, as do the county offices, including the sheriff and fire departments. There are several grocery stores and a large laundromat to accommodate patrons. More information on Superior is available by talking to one of the friendly locals or visiting the tourist information office.

Alberton

Alberton is building on its past prominent role with the Milwaukee Railroad. Although the road is gone now, the town is focusing on the railroad theme for its recreational and business area. The showpiece is a newly renovated depot, which now houses the library and a senior center.

A fine set of tennis courts with a magnificent backdrop of the Clark Fork River is a good place for a work out, while staying at the historic Montana Hotel. Or perhaps a tour of the Section House Gallery, with its collections of artwork by outstanding local artisans might be your cup of tea. For book lovers there's the Montana Valley Book Store, with more than 10,000 volumes of used books.

St. Regis

The center of town has changed several times in St. Regis, proving that the community is flexible and on the move. Community members are planning a new town square, where its statue of John Mullan, dedicated by the son of copper king W. C. Clark in 1917, will be showcased. The square will also serve as a turnaround for the 18-wheelers that have traditionally used the community as a dinner stop.

You know what they say — if you want to find a good place to eat, follow a trucker. St. Regis has four fine dining spots with something for everyone, especially for those heading for Glacier Park. The cut-off road, Highway 135, provides the first route to the park for those entering Montana on I-90, and it begins right in St. Regis.

Travelers and hunters can also find comfortable, modern accommodations in this historic town on the old Mullan Road. Local outfitters can help the hunter who is on the trail of that trophy-size elk.

Looking for a spot to enjoy a sack lunch? Go no farther than the Community Park at the west edge of town. The St. Regis Community Club has worked for several years, turning the land where a lumber mill once stood into a spacious verdant park complete with an ice skating pond and softball fields. Every spring and fall the park is transformed into a marketplace as vendors take part in the Super Flea Market.

Saltese, Haugan, DeBorgia

There are three small communities at the western end of the county. Saltese is a gutsy little town nestled in the towering mountains. The panoramic setting encouraged some of its eating spots and other businesses, including motels, to cash in on an alpine theme. Haugan is famous worldwide as the home of the Lincoln \$10,000 Silver Dollar Bar. DeBorgia is proudest of its most notable resident, travelogue host and humorist Don Cooper.

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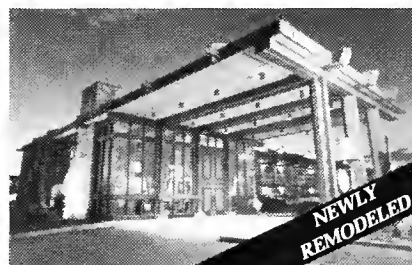


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Poised in the shadows of the Bitterroots so tall with skiing, camping at its best and hunting in the fall. And when you think you've had your fill of mountain streams and more, Missoula has another side, discover the great indoors.

Points of Interest

Garnet Ghost Town
Holland Falls
Morell Falls and Lookout
Bob Marshall Wilderness Area
Mission Mountain Wilderness Area
Double Arrow Lookout

Missoula Area

University of Montana
Marshall Ski Area
Montana Snowbowl
Pattee Canyon
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Museum of the Arts
Rattlesnake Wilderness Area
Greenough Mansion
Smokejump Center
Performing Arts and Radio Television Center

Spring

Missoula Area

International Wildlife Film Festival
Home & Garden Show
Shrine Circus
KYI-YO Indian Pow Wow
Bank Run

Seeley Condon Area

Four Wheeler Family Fun Day
Wilderness Sportsman Club Show
TOSRV Bicycle Tour of the Swan River Valley

Summer

The **Western Montana Fair** is held every August and features exhibits, a carnival, commercial displays, horse racing, a rodeo and entertainment.

Missoula Area

Summerfest
Riverfront Summer Theatre
4th of July Celebration
& Spectacular Fireworks Display



Washington Grizzly Stadium photo by Paul Dostert.



Snow Bowl Ski Area photo courtesy of the Missoula Chamber of Commerce.

Elk photo by Paul Dostert.



Clark Fork River photo (right) by Paul Dostert.



"Little Orphan Annie" at the Wilma Theatre. Photo by Paul Dostert.

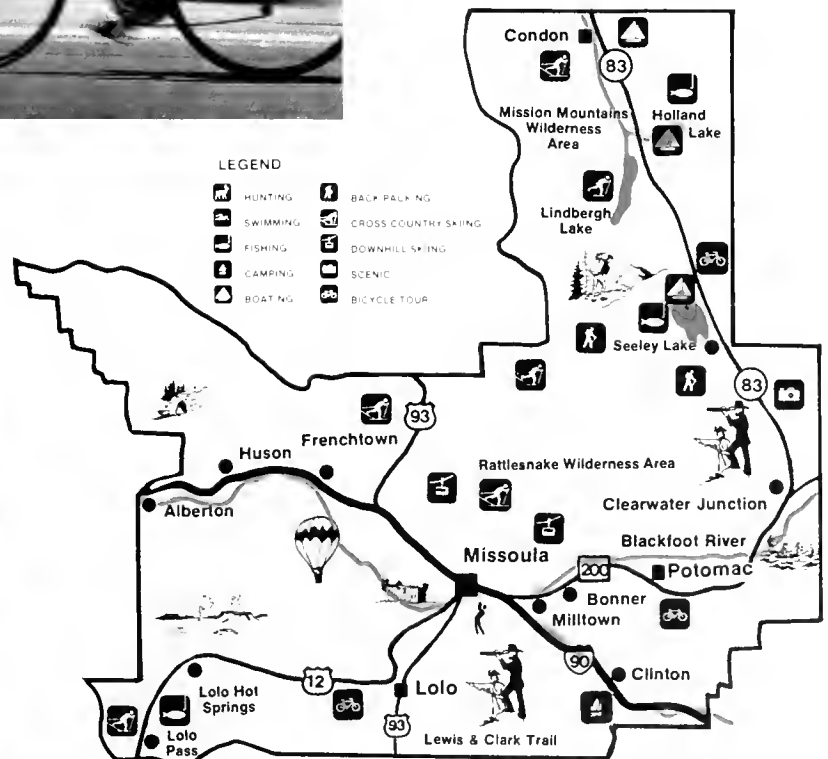


University of Montana
Campus, Main Hall.
Photo by Paul Dostert.



The "Tent" in Caras Park.
Photo by Paul Dostert.

Missoula is home to the Bike Centennial.
Photo by Paul Dostert.



Summer

The **Western Montana Fair** is held every August and features exhibits, a carnival, commercial displays, horse racing, a rodeo and entertainment.

Missoula Area

Summerfest

Riverfront Summer Theatre
4th of July Celebration
& Spectacular Fireworks Display
Montana Quarterhorse Show
Out To Lunch in Caras Park
Band Concerts
Hellgate Art & Craft Rendezvous

Seeley Condon Area

Condon Mule Days
Children's Fishing Derby
Prairie To Peaks Triathlon
Fourth of July Parade
4x4 Mud Races
Swan Valley Fourth of July
O-MOK-SEE
Seeley Lake Arts & Craft Show
Western Montana Bar Horseshoe
Championships
Sanctioned & Money Horseshoe
Championships
Antique Car Show & Swap Meet
Shakespeare in the Parks—Wapiti Lodge

Winter

The **Winter Star Festival/Montana State Expo** in January and February is a city-wide celebration featuring Missoula's brightest stars. Activities range from livestock competition to snow sculpture contests, ski events, a torchlight parade, a chili feed and hay rides.

Missoula Area

Western Montana Wine Festival
St. Patrick's Day Parade
Foresters Ball
Tri-state Round Dance Festival

Seeley Condon Area

Montana Snowmobile Association's
Winter Ride
Yamafest Winter Carnival
Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog Race
OSCR's 50K & 10K Nordic Races
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Snowmobilavous
Holland Lake Lodge Snow Dance
Snow Joke Half Marathon
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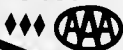
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Missoula

Missoula, an upbeat city featuring fine dining and complete shopping and convention facilities with modern hotels, motels and a university, this hub of five valleys also offers endless recreational and cultural activities.

Colorful from the start, the first permanent settlement in the Missoula valley was Hellgate Village, a small but prosperous community founded by three intrepid merchants in 1860. Located on the Mullen Road, Hellgate attracted a considerable amount of trade. The original founders of Hellgate built a sawmill and flour mill four miles east where the flow of water was better. This was the beginning of modern Missoula which eclipsed Hellgate and became the largest city in Western Montana. Graced with imported Vermont maples and flower gardens, Missoula became known as the Garden City.

Theatre came early to this culturally-minded city. Missoulians turned out in droves when a Shakespearean tragedian bought a ranch in the Blackfoot Valley in 1880 and began rehearsing plays in a remodeled livery stable loft. Modern Missoula has 14 theatres, a Children's Theatre, Repertory Theatre, a community choir, a symphony, a string quartet and several dance groups. Sit-on-the-grass summer park concerts are likely to include a visiting opera singer from Germany or a local barbershop quartet. During summer months, a big top balloons along the Clark Fork, home of the University of Montana Summer Theatre.

Diversity is Missoula's middle name. Hungry? 135 restaurants offer fare ranging from quick whole grain sandwiches to gourmet French Cajun. Ethnic restaurants feature dishes from Southeast Asia, Mexico, Greece, Italy, Germany, China and Japan. Speak to an oldtimer in a cowboy hat in downtown Missoula, or drop in at one of the oldtime saloons where poker games and real-beef burgers are daily fare. Missoula is a shopper's paradise. Among numerous specialty shops are a dozen art shops and galleries selling the work of Montana and Western artists. Congenial shopkeepers take pride in helping shoppers make the right purchases from historic downtown Missoula or from a modern shopping mall with 103 stores!

Looking for an unusual experience? Try sky diving, hang gliding, square dancing, buffalo watching, huckleberry picking, fly fishing or mountain climbing. It's even possible to get married in a historic downtown theatre. The owner figures churches and theatres are compatible, his might be the only movie theatre in the world with an altar. For the more conventionally minded, Missoula boasts 3 golf courses and 8 public tennis courts.

The Western Montana Fair, Rodeo and Race Meet is held every August. It features exhibits, a carnival, commercial displays, RCA approved rodeo and starbright entertainment. Six days of horse racing open and close this great summertime happening in Missoula.

The broad Clark Fork River flows right through Missoula and offers something for everyone — kayaking,

rafting, canoing, fishing. Stretches of tranquility are perfect for lazy afternoon inner tubing or, for the more adventuresome, the Clark Fork has some of the West's best whitewater. Western Montana is a fly fisherman's paradise. Within fifty miles of Missoula are hundreds of miles of floatable rivers with rainbow, cutthroat, brook trout and many more.

Located in the Sapphire Mountain Range, just 25 miles east of Missoula, Rock Creek is nationally famous for its *blue ribbon* trout fishing. Although other creeks and rivers around the Missoula valley have fine fishing, only Rock Creek has been awarded blue ribbon status. There are eight campgrounds along this 60 mile creek.

Tour the west's largest smoke jumper training base, located at Missoula's Johnson Bell Airport, and discover the art of parachute packing coupled with the natural and human drama associated with forest fires.

Winter is funtime in Missoula. The annual Winter Start Festival and Montana State Expo Festival, held in January and February, is a city wide celebration featuring Missoula's brightest stars. Activities range from livestock competition to snow sculpture contests, ski events, a torchlight parade, a chili feed and hay rides. Miles of cross-country ski trails criss-cross Rattlesnake and Pattee Canyon Recreation Areas adjacent to Missoula. Two major downhill ski areas are ten and twenty minutes from downtown. After skiing, soak in a local hot spring, dance up a storm at a country western bar, or try a free lesson in cowboy jitterbug at a local saloon.

Missoula has several health clubs that welcome drop-ins, it hosts numerous marathons and is the national headquarters for Bikecentennial.

Bicycles have been very important to Missoula for many years. The U.S. Army tested the bicycle in 1896 at historic Fort Missoula (1877-1947) and this story plus the history of the area is explored at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. Within walking distance of downtown is the Missoula Museum of the Arts which features 19th and 20th century art of the United States. Catch a poetry reading downtown or attend a concert or play at the University of Montana's new \$8.6 million Performing Arts and Radio Television Center, described by actor/director Peter Fonda as the "finest facilities found anywhere."

Mining era ghost towns abound, but Garnet shines under the restoration efforts of the Garnet Preservation Association and beckons visitors with gold fever.

Missoula is home to the University of Montana. This 181 acre campus has a College of Arts and Sciences, schools of Education, Pharmacy, Forestry, Law, Journalism, Business Administration, Fine Arts, and boasts a modern University Center and newly built Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The university had 50 students when it opened, but today 9,000 students study and live in an atmosphere of academic challenge and diversity.

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Fall Scene near Condon. An Eagle Eye photo.

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The communities of Seeley Lake and Condon cordially invite you to experience the pristine beauty of the Seeley Swan Valley! Highway 83 in northwestern Montana, which meanders through ninety forested miles between the rugged Mission Mountains and the magnificent Swan Range is your pathway to adventures which will thrill your senses and create lasting memories.

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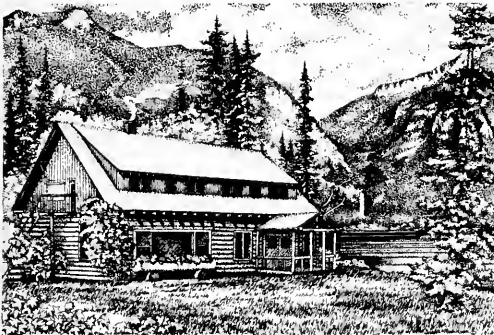
easy access for boating, fishing and water sports. Hikers, backpackers, horseback riders and nature lovers of all types will find a myriad of opportunities to challenge their imaginations. The Mission Mountain and the renowned Bob Marshall Wilderness Areas, teeming with wildlife, offer unspoiled splendor.

Fall offers a feast for the eyes as foliage changes color. Fall also provides opportunities to see wildlife on the move. Deer, elk, moose and bear all call Seeley Swan home. The adventurous hunter will find the ultimate in vacation fulfillment.

The Seeley Swan's natural beauty and specially planned activities are a year-round attraction. Protected from wind by the surrounding mountains, the Valley's climate is relatively mild, even in winter, when the snowfalls gently turn the valley floor into a plush, powdery carpet of white — a picture-perfect winter wonderland! Nationally known sled dog races, snowmobile festivals, and cross-country ski races are annual events enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. A special treat is a moonlight ride on a horse-drawn sleigh, complete with jingle bells!

Whatever your preference for lodging, the Seeley Swan offers accommodations to fit your lifestyle and your pocketbook. In addition, visitors will find fine dining facilities, grocery stores, and a myriad of other businesses to serve your needs.

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SANDERS COUNTY

The Secret Garden

Like "The Secret Garden," the glacial splendor of Sanders County lies hidden off the beaten track on the Montana/Idaho border, isolated between the Coeur d'Alene mountain range on the south and the Cabinet mountain range on the north. These ranges contain the Selway-Bitterroot and Cabinet Wilderness Areas. Between these high, mostly timbered mountains, the Clark Fork River meanders its way along the valley floor for 100 miles. In fact, there is practically no highway the traveler can take through the County and not have the company of a river companioning the highway.

Sanders County is blessed with some 2¼ million acres of national forest. These acres are covered with access trails for outdoor enthusiasts. Hunting, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding and camping are favorite activities. Depending upon your climactic preference, there is the drier, less timbered sites at the southern end of the county. The terrain changes to densely forested, cooler, moister terrains at the northern end, where peaks rise to nearly 7,000 feet. There are no chain required areas or grades in the county. The winter highways are always kept clear by our outstanding highway crews.

Sanders was first populated in the late 1800's, first by trappers, then by farmers, finally by workers in the silver and timber industries. All, save trapping, are still major industries in the area. Trapping has been replaced by a reputation for some of the best big game hunting in the lower 48. Long hailed for its fabulous elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, and black bear hunting, Sanders County, near Plains, sports a nationally significant bighorn sheep population and a mountain lion hunt is fast becoming one of the most popular bookings for local outfitters.

Licenses for hunting and fishing are available throughout the county at many grocery stores. The angler will not be disappointed, pike and four varieties of trout are common in our rivers and streams. The upper Thompson River and middle Bull River offer wonderful fishing in beautiful settings. The Clark Fork has been blocked in three places forming wide reservoirs. These offer opportunities for uncrowded water skiing, wind surfing and canoeing.

There's nothing ahead of you but a peaceful visit with nature at its most beautiful. Let's take a tour of the county beginning at the southeast end of Highway 200, west of Ravalli. At mile marker 111 turn off for Moiese, the entrance to the National Bison Range. The range is a reserve for buffalo, elk and deer. A good road circles the many acres, offering views of the herds in a natural setting. Re-enter Highway 200 and continue northwest to the junction of Highway 135. You have the choice of continuing into the major portion of the Clark Fork Valley or turning left and sampling the pleasures of the hot springs near the junction, the Cascade Campground and hiking trail or the Squaw Creek hiking area.



Flat Iron Ridge Golf Course photo by Jay Simons.



Photo by Jay Simons.



Noxon Rapids Dam Reservoir photo (left) by Jay Simons.



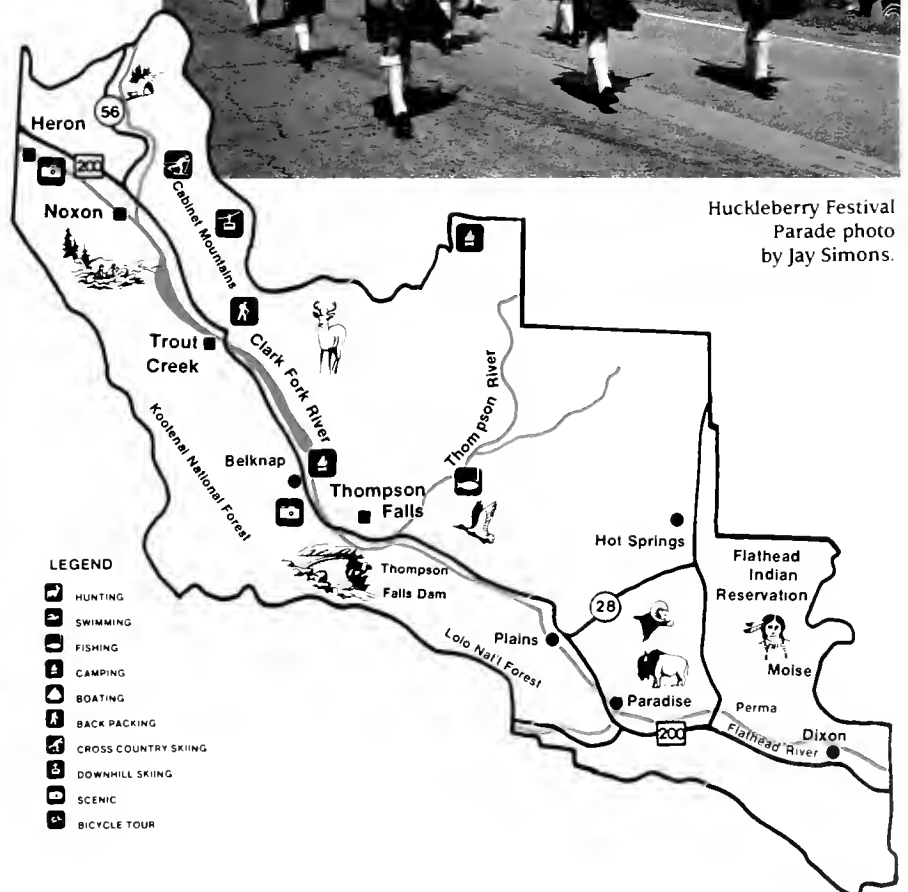
Photo (below) by Jay Simons.



Bull River photo by Jay Simons.



Huckleberry Festival Parade photo by Jay Simons.



Back on Highway 200, travel northwest and remember the great fishing along the Flathead and Clark Fork. Just before entering the town of Plains, notice Highway 28 to Hot Springs on your right. Hot Springs is named for the renowned mineral and hot mud springs. Just up the highway is lovely Rainbow Lake and the Lion's picnic area beside the road. You are visiting the Flathead Indian Reservation in this area, so if you are between 18 and 64, you need permits for fishing, hunting, or hiking on the reservation. Permits are available for one day, three days, or a year at outlets throughout the reservation. If you are visiting the second weekend in June, it's **Homesteader Days** in Hot Springs, a long celebrated event. From Hot Springs, you can head to Flathead Lake by continuing north on Highway 28 to Elmo.

Plains

You can return to Highway 200 and stop in Plains. If you are interested in enjoying the recreational activities of the Lolo or Kootenai Forests, stop at the Plains Ranger Station on Clayton Street and pick up maps, insight and directions to the multitude of trails, campsites, fishing holes and mountain lakes.

Through the Plains Ranger Station (826-3821) or the Cabinet Ranger Station in Trout Creek at mile marker 26 (847-2464) you can rent a forest lookout cabin for about \$25 a night. This is an experience you will remember for a lifetime.

Stop at the Little Bitterroot Special Service Store at 105 W. Lynch (south side of the railroad tracks next to City Hall). The furniture and woodcrafted gifts offered here are crafted by handicapped residents. Plains is the site of the annual **Sanders County Fair**, which runs Thursday to Sunday on Labor Day weekend. It's lots of country fun for the whole family. Plains has a municipal swimming pool for fun and exercise and a golf course for those that enjoy this relaxing yet challenging game. Outside of Plains, around mile marker 6, you may see herds of bighorn sheep grazing in the fields or cliffsides on the north side of the road. What an exciting sight, but watch out, the cliffs come right to the road, bringing the sheep close to the road.

A few miles out of Thompson Falls, the Thompson River flows into the Clark Fork and the Thompson River Road meets Highway 200. During the summer months, this improved gravel road takes suitable vehicles right through to Lincoln County's Highway 2. Logging trucks frequent this road, the pleasure traveler should keep a wary eye out for them. The best reason to take this side trip is the superb fishing on the upper Thompson River.

Thompson Falls

Thompson Falls is the county seat. The Thompson Falls Dam began generating power in 1916 and can be toured. Walk into a local business and ask for a postcard size map of the town to help you walk to the dam. Also worth seeing is the old Thompson Falls county jail, now a museum. If the backcountry recreation offered by the

Plains ranger isn't your cup of tea, stay the day and play the Thompson Falls Golf Course, try the archery range or the municipal swimming pool. The golf course is located along a beautiful curve in the Clark Fork, right where the valley necks down into a deep gorge.

If you've really timed your stay right, it may be **Vinson Rodeo weekend** in Thompson Falls. Usually near the end of July, this small rodeo is held on the Vinson ranch north of town. Professional competitors participate in very exciting events. The rodeo runs Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, but part of the fun is camping with the competitors and spectators in Vinson's fields. And dancing under the stars Saturday night.

Just outside Thompson Falls, near mile marker 52, take an excursion down Prospect Creek Road (seasonally open) to Murray, Idaho, south of Coeur d'Alene. This trip through the canyon and over the mountain border into Idaho is a worthwhile drive for the adventurous, but the Idaho side is unpaved and rough, not advisable for motor homes or pull trailers. There are no services between Thompson Falls and Murray and the road may not be passable, except in the summer months. Be sure to ask in town before heading out.

Another excursion route out of Thompson Falls is the Blue Slide Road, following the Clark Fork River's north side. It's a scenic, well maintained gravel road through farm country. Near the north end of Blue Slide Road is the mouth of the Vermillion River. Again, with a suitable vehicle, this narrow gravel road is a picturesque trip. You can return to Lincoln County's Highway 2, west of Kalispell by this river canyon route. Fishing the Vermillion and its tributaries is great fun too.

Trout Creek

Whether you go by way of Highway 200 or the Blue Slide Road, when you get to Trout Creek you are in the Huckleberry capitol of Montana. If you arrive on the third weekend in August you can help the locals celebrate. The Trout Creek Park at the southern end of town hosts the **Huckleberry Festival** from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. There are huckleberry pancake breakfasts, a parade, arts and craft booths, continuous entertainment, a Saturday night barbeque and usually an outdoor dance.

If you feel like walking, take a short walk through the two art galleries run by local painters or for a more adventurous trip, walk through some 22 miles of the National Recreation Trail, the Trout Creek Loop. The Cabinet Ranger Station, just west of town, can give you maps and exact directions. Elevations run from 2,700 feet at the trailhead in the main Trout Creek Valley, to over 5,500 feet along the Montana-Idaho divide. The divide can also be accessed by vehicle via the road to Minton Peak. This trail offers excellent opportunities for solitude in its 20,000 roadless acres of quiet serenity. There is a great diversity of wildlife in the area.

At the north end of Trout Creek is a well-appointed beach and boat launch area with a large sunbathing raft. This is a great place to stop for lunch and let the kids get

some exercise. Or put your boat in and enjoy a long lazy day on the broad Noxon Rapids Reservoir. The reservoir runs for nearly 30 miles, from Thompson Falls to Noxon. Just up the road three miles, near the Ranger Station, is the North Shore Forest Service Campground which also has a boat launch.

If you really enjoy the back country, there are particularly colorful and interesting cliffs in Devils Gap up Martin Creek, northwest of Trout Creek. The long hike or horseback trip up McKay Creek to beautiful Wanless Lake is a favorite of hunting parties.

Noxon

Every other weekend during the summer months, the town of Noxon hosts the **O'Mox'see Riding Competitions** held for amateur riders in the area. Before you drive by, cross the bridge into town and look to your left at the O'Mox'see arena. If there is activity, drive over and enjoy the show.

Five miles from Noxon, at mile marker 10, is the mouth of Bull River. There you can find a boat launch, picnic area, state campground, private campgrounds and services around the junction of Highway 56. A drive up Highway 56, called Bull River Road by locals, is similar to a drive through Glacier Park. Fishing and floating the Bull River, which hugs the highway, are popular sports. This is the Cabinet Wilderness Area and backpack, horseback or hiking trips into the high country should be treated

accordingly. The Cabinet Ranger Station in Trout Creek can give you specifics on trails, lakes and safety tips to help you enjoy the wilderness to its fullest.

A favorite excursion is the drive and hike to the end of the east fork of the Bull River, then branch off and follow the foot trail to St. Paul Lake for excellent fishing. Just beyond the Sanders County line in Lincoln County is the Ross Creek Scenic Area. Mile marker 13 has a small sign directing you to the Ross Creek Scenic Cedar Grove. There you can take a self guided walking tour through the tremendous, aged western red cedars and hemlocks native to this 100-acre forest reserve. With their huge walk-through trunks, they are likened to California's famous redwoods and giant sequoias.

Return to Highway 200 and continue traveling northwest. You will soon be leaving Sanders County, following the Clark Fork until it enters Pend Oreille Lake. Follow the east side of the lake to Sandpoint, Idaho, the scenery is unparalleled. If you're still not ready to go back to the beaten path, you can test your legs one last time and get a view that will last you a lifetime. The hike to the top of Squaw Peak on the north side of the highway at mile marker 5-6, is well worth it. You'll notice the sign marking the gravel road at the beginning of the trail. It's not easy, you should expect to spend a half to a full day getting there. Once up, you can stay, camp at the top, and replenish your body and soul with a feeling of healthy accomplishment. And a view of forever.

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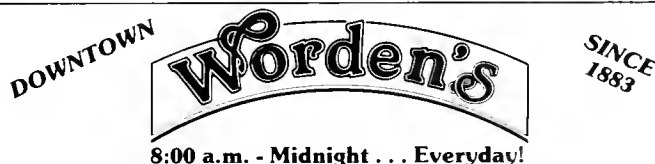
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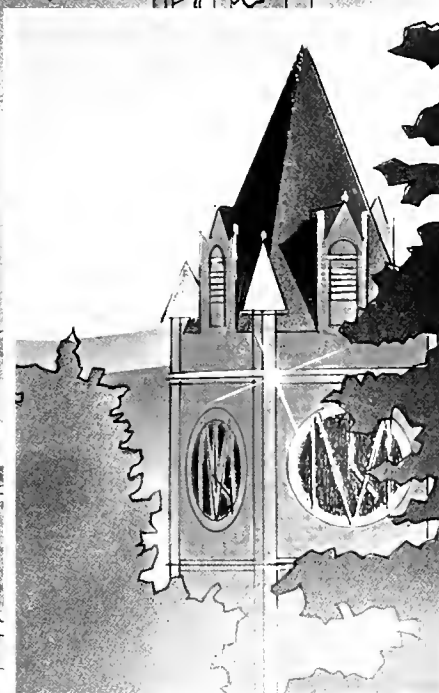
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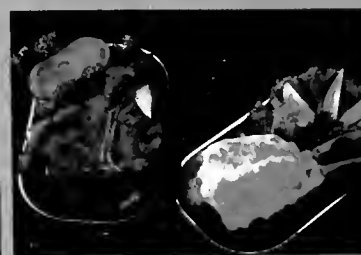


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